

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Safe & Just
Michigan

*Statement from Safe & Just Michigan Executive Director
John S. Cooper on newly enacted criminal justice reforms:*

“Our state Legislature made great strides toward making Michigan safer, more productive and more just in 2020 by enacting dozens of criminal justice reform bills. These include the nation’s broadest Clean Slate law, occupational licensing reform, expanded SNAP food assistance for people with drug convictions, and bills based on the jails task force that end the suspension of driver’s licenses for non-driving offenses and seek alternatives to jail and arrest for minor offenses. These new laws will make it easier for hundreds of thousands of Michiganders to find good jobs, afford safe housing and support their families during one of the worst economic crises our nation has seen since the Great Depression. It is especially encouraging that all of these measures found widespread bipartisan support during a time marked by deep-seated partisan divisions. We urge Michigan lawmakers to build upon the reforms made in 2020 and continue to make Michigan a national leader in criminal justice reform.”

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Safe & Just Michigan (www.safeandjustmi.org) works to advance policies that end Michigan’s over-use of incarceration and promote community safety and healing. We partner with Michigan organizations and leaders from across the political spectrum, including business and community leaders, faith communities, crime survivor organizations, formerly incarcerated individuals, prisoners and their families, as well as Michigan taxpayers statewide.