

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Safe & Just
Michigan

***Statement from Safe & Just Michigan Executive Director
John S. Cooper on the Legislature passing SB 599
(Medically Frail Parole fix) on June 27, 2024:***

“Safe & Just Michigan thanks the Michigan Legislature for making SB 599 a priority this session. SB 599 makes important changes to Michigan's Medically Frail Parole law that will empower the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) to transfer medically frail people and the cost of their care to outside facilities. This will benefit MDOC, medically frail prisoners and their families, and taxpayers while carefully guarding public safety.

“SB 599 fixes technical problems existing in the 2019 Medically Frail Parole statute that resulted in just one person being paroled under the statute in the past five years. Safe & Just Michigan supports SB 599 because it will allow MDOC to send medically frail people to facilities like hospitals, nursing homes, hospices or home care better suited to their needs. It also will save millions of dollars by shifting medical care costs from Michigan’s General Fund to Medicaid, Medicare or other outside funding sources.

“This law is designed with public safety in mind. First, people who qualify for medically frail parole are, by definition, terminally ill or mentally or physically incapacitated. Based on medical condition alone, they do not pose a threat to the public. Further, medically frail parole is a discretionary process overseen by the parole board, and the board has the authority to address concerns about a person’s mobility by utilizing a tether or similar conditions of release.

“We look forward to SB 599 being signed into law.”

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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.