

Michigan Coalition to End Domestic & Sexual Violence

*Representing over 70 Michigan community-based agencies in service to survivors
and promoting sexual and domestic violence prevention initiatives*



House Bills 4670 (Star-1 H-1), 4671, 4672, 4673 November 8, 2021

As an organization with a long-demonstrated commitment to advancing social justice, the Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence (MCEDSV) supports reforms to address injustices across and within societal systems. To truly achieve justice, such reforms must honor survivors who seek safety for themselves and accountability for their offender(s) through the criminal legal systems.

MCEDSV appreciates efforts by supporters of the package to address concerns for survivors' safety and confidence in sentencing. In particular, the draft exempts people incarcerated for committing an offense that would place them on the Sex Offender Registry from productivity credits. Although we welcome this change, most of MCEDSV's original concerns remain:

- This draft **leaves out survivors of stalking and domestic violence** from productivity credit exemptions, **rolling back decades of advocacy to ensure these crimes are taken seriously**.
 - People who perpetrate these crimes can demonstrate high levels of manipulation and dedication to harming their target. These are precisely the populations likely to leverage credits to cause further harm.
- Notice requirements are not specific, such that survivors would only know that their perpetrator was eligible for credits, and would be left to guess whether they were taking advantage of such credits.
- Behavior that would disqualify an incarcerated person from taking advantage of credits does not include efforts to contact any victim in their underlying case.
- Both the minimum and maximum sentence may be reduced, allowing a person to come before the parole board sooner than a victim may be expecting.

Many victims plan their lives around the expected release date of a person who harmed them—securing alternate housing and other protections in order to ensure they can stay safe. Any proposal to amend truth-in-sentencing in concept or practice, must be based on a comprehensive review that includes a broad range of victims' rights groups and recognizes the important practicalities for survivors, as well as the foundational principles and history of this framework.

MCEDSV urges a “No” vote on HB 4670 (Star-1, H-1), HB 4671, HB 4672, & HB 4673

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