



September 23, 2020

Chairman Graham Filler  
Michigan House Judiciary Committee  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909

RE: Jail & Pre-Trial Bills SB 1046-1051  
cc: Members of Michigan House Judiciary Committee

Dear Chairman Filler:

I write today on behalf of Americans for Prosperity-Michigan's volunteer activists from across the state to urge you to take swift and decisive action in support of bills SB 1046-1051 on much-needed reforms to our criminal justice system and the ways we handle citations, warrants, probation, parole, and youthful offenders.

We and our citizen activists believe in a justice system that protects public safety while at the same time honoring inherent human dignity. For too long, Michigan's justice system has over-criminalized low-level offenses, over-punished simple mistakes and crimes of circumstance, and impeded offenders' ability to make themselves and their communities whole. This package of bills presents an opportunity to remove unnecessary barriers Michiganders currently face as they work to make right on past mistakes and regain composure in their personal and professional lives in the wake of involvement with the justice system, as well as give back some of the discretion that law enforcement officers and judiciary officials need to do their jobs well.

As many states grasp for quick ways to adjust their criminal justice systems in light of current events, we are proud that Michigan has an opportunity to reform our state in a way that is thoughtful, carefully crafted, and well-researched. These bills are the result of a full year of thorough research into Michigan's jails, courts, and communities. They're based on the research of the Jail & Pre-Trial Task Force that was assembled by both the governor and legislative leaders including Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey and Speaker of the House Lee Chatfield.

In a time when our state faces a demanding and unprecedented economic recovery, it is especially important that every Michigander have a clear path to achieving their potential whenever possible. SB 1046-1051 will help ensure unnecessary burdens that do nothing to improve public safety do not stand between someone who made a mistake and their ability to contribute productively to their community in the future. We urge you to vote yes, both here in committee and on the House floor.

Sincerely,

Diana Prichard  
Community Engagement Director, AFP-MI

*Americans for Prosperity (AFP) exists to recruit, educate, and mobilize citizens in support of the policies and goals of a free society at the local, state, and federal level, helping every American live their dream – especially the least fortunate. AFP has more than 3.2 million activists across the nation, a local infrastructure that includes 36 state chapters, and has received financial support from more than 100,000 Americans in all 50 states. For more information, visit [www.AmericansForProsperity.org](http://www.AmericansForProsperity.org).*