

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Safe & Just
Michigan

Statement from Safe & Just Michigan Executive Director John S. Cooper on Governor Whitmer's action to commute four prison sentences:

"Safe & Just Michigan is pleased to see Gov. Whitmer commute the sentences of Michael Thompson and three other aging people serving long sentences for drug convictions. A governor's clemency power is a critical tool for mitigating the harshness of long prison sentences that do not serve the public interest or promote public safety, and we applaud the Governor's use of it here.

We hope these grants of clemency are the first of many from this administration, as there are many long-serving people in Michigan's prison system who warrant consideration for release but are not currently eligible for parole."

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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.