



Honorable Gretchen Whitmer, Governor  
State of Michigan  
George W. Romney Building  
111 South Capitol Avenue  
Lansing, MI 48909

Honorable Mike Shirkey, Majority Leader  
The Michigan Senate  
Room 106, Capitol  
Lansing, MI 48909

Honorable Jason Wentworth, Speaker  
Michigan House of Representatives  
Room 164, Capitol  
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Governor Whitmer, Senate Majority Leader Shirkey, and House Speaker Wentworth:

As diverse crime victims from across the state of Michigan, we are writing to express our overwhelming support for recently introduced legislation that prioritizes our needs as survivors and improves safety throughout the state – the Safer Michigan Act, HB 4670-76.

Far too often, the voices of crime victims like us – who reflect those most likely to be harmed throughout the state – have not been centered in policy conversations about public safety and the criminal justice system. However, recently, you've changed this by taking steps towards ending the cycle of crime and improving the state's economy.

This is a smart approach to building healthy and safe communities, and The Safer Michigan Act is an opportunity to build on this smart approach by supporting crime victims, prioritizing rehabilitation, and adopting proven policies that will improve public safety. Its reforms are an opportunity to not only tackle the root causes of crime, but also support diverse crime victims, save taxpayer funds and further stimulate the economy during these trying times.

Too many people who have survived violence have the devastating consequences compounded by barriers to accessing support from the state's victim services. The state's crime victim compensation program has both the lowest application rate of any state, as well as a higher denial rate (30 percent) than the national average. The program has many barriers in its application process, and even when accessed, does not provide support at an adequate level. To better support crime victims, the Safer Michigan Act addresses these gaps by removing bureaucratic hurdles so crime victims get the urgent help needed, with less red tape, at a sufficient level.

In addition, many crime victims lack protections from losing their housing in the aftermath of their victimization. The Safer Michigan Act would provide lease termination protections to all violent crime victims, witnesses, and their family members to ensure their safety.

As victims of crime, we are determined to never have what happened to us ever happen to anyone else. Communities across Michigan deserve a criminal justice system that provides critical support to crime victims so they will never be victimized again. Michigan currently spends about \$2 billion a year on incarceration, while many crime victims lack support. Our state can build on previous successes with programs like Vocational Village, which incentivize incarcerated people to participate in rehabilitative programming. These proven, smart policies require accountability, while ending the cycle of crime and ensuring more prudent use of taxpayer dollars.

The Safer Michigan Act would incentivize participation in rehabilitation programs amongst people in prison before they are released. This approach of providing productivity credits creates a system of accountability where participants can earn credits upon completion of programs, such as Michigan Department of Corrections core programming and education, that prepare people for return into the workforce. These policies have a proven record of making communities safer and stimulating local economies by reducing recidivism and helping people become productive members of their communities upon their reentry.

Common sense solutions, like the Safer Michigan Act, are an opportunity to ensure public funds are invested in what works to stop cycles of crime and provide trauma recovery in communities often left behind by the current system. Our public safety resources must be employed in the best ways that are critical to making our communities safer.

We thank you for listening to crime victims in the past, and look forward to continuing our work together to ensure that all communities are safe. We urge your support of these critical reforms and offer ourselves as a resource to make sure that the voices of diverse crime victims are heard to make our communities safer.

Sincerely,

Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice Michigan members

Abdullah EL-Alamin

Adeenah Rosh

Amber L. Balkema

Amber Perry

Angela Cosma

Angela Rodriguez

Anita M. Brown

Antoinette Pagano

Barbara Carr

Barbara Davis

BarBara Hubbard-Frazier

Barbara L. Jones

Beatrice Segur

BeeJones Harris  
Bernice RingoWilson  
Beverly Schlaff  
Beverly Stevenson  
Blake Hart  
Bobbie Adams  
Bonita Cameron  
Bonita Lovejoy  
Brenda Newell  
Bridgetta Bingham  
Carole Jones  
Carolee Carter  
Carriann Crum  
Catherine Infantado  
Chanise Turner  
Cindy Davis  
Cynitra Anderson  
Dana Roberds  
Dawnette Begin  
Deb Clark  
Debbie Thero  
Debora Wright  
Deni Hunter  
Dennis Hester  
Deolis Allen III  
Diana Turner  
Diane Nielsen  
Dorothy WalshCook  
Eleanor West  
Elizabeth McGinnis  
Elizabeth Ross  
Felicia Simila  
Francine Hill  
Geri Biggs  
Gina Huser  
Gloria J. Noble  
Heather Sierminski-Winklepleck  
Heather Winklepleck  
Heidi Plott  
Heidi Schaible  
Jacqueline Johnson  
Jason Kostrzewa  
Jeff Lewis  
Karol Price

Karolyn Jennings  
Kathleen E. F. Adair  
Kathleen Nummerdor  
Kathleen T. Hunt  
Kevin Massingille Jr  
Kimberly J. Budary  
Kimberly Roach  
Kristen Burgess  
Kristian Powell  
Kristy Pulaski  
Leigh Benigni  
Leslie Bradley  
Lisa Howard  
Lorenzo Barber  
Lynn Walker  
Malaika Ward  
Marcia Nesson  
Marell Richardson  
Margaret Masters-Jun  
Marie Mccullough  
Marlene Nine  
Marrha Goetz  
Maureen Sheahan  
Max Sokolnicki  
Melanie Poole  
Michael Ryan  
Michelle Wright  
Monica Sanders  
Natalie Harrison  
Natasha Huddleston  
Patsy Waycaster  
Reandyland Henderson  
Rebecca Boni  
Robin Sweigert  
Rulesha Mitchell  
Ruth Jarvis  
Shari Ware  
Sharon Hall  
Shawan Dortch  
Shelby Campbell  
Shirley Duncan  
Siprenia Pearson  
Sonja Aubrey  
Stacy Kiernan

Sylvia R Villarreal-Foyt  
Tandy Bidingger  
Tempra chesebro  
Teresa Sexton  
Thomas Grove  
Tia Coles  
Timerra Brooks  
Tina Moreland  
Tracy Vuorinen  
Trista Maziarz  
Ursula Leftwich  
Vaughnzel Jacobs  
Victoria Enos  
William Edwards