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Gubernatorial Candidate Shri Thanedar Calls For Legalization Of Recreational Marijuana, Release of Non-Violent Marijuana Offenders From State Prisons and Jails

Savings From Release of Non-Violent Marijuana Offenders Alone Calculated To Be Close To \$100 Million Annually For Michigan

ANN ARBOR - Michigan Democratic Gubernatorial Candidate Shri Thanedar today called for the legalization of recreational marijuana in Michigan and said he would look to release non-violent marijuana offenders convicted of marijuana-based crimes currently sitting in prisons and jails soon after taking office.

“This move would be one of the most widely sweeping criminal justice reforms in the history of Michigan, but it’s long overdue,” Thanedar said. “It does not mean that we would pardon those convicted of offenses for other illegal drugs, but it does mean we would release those convicted of marijuana-related offenses immediately.”

Thanedar said he would exercise his power of pardon to accomplish his goal within the first 90 days upon taking office. The campaign estimates Michigan could save approximately \$100 million annually from the pardoning of these prisoners; money which would be redirected into infrastructure and education in a Thanedar administration.

“Far too many people – especially persons of color disproportionately – are rotting away in Michigan prisons and jails from historical marijuana offenses, activity that would be allowable if the citizens of this state vote to legalize marijuana in the fall,” Thanedar said. “Those who want to keep marijuana illegal in Michigan are on the wrong side of history.”

Thanedar also said he would work to ensure marijuana would be taxed similarly to alcohol to increase revenues for the state’s budget and would crack down on those who would attempt to put marijuana into the hands of children under the age of 21.

“Today, we know the majority of Michigan citizens support the legalization of marijuana,” he said. “We must make our state welcome to the cannabis industry and do what we can to create jobs and embrace this burgeoning economic sector, as long as it is appropriately and rigorously regulated.”

Thanedar, the most progressive candidate in the race running for the Democratic nomination for Governor, is an Ann Arbor-based scientist and entrepreneur who announced his candidacy in June 2017. Thanedar’s campaign has continued airing commercials across the state in an attempt to educate more voters on his platform, including an ad which aired during the Super Bowl.

For more information about Shri’s plans for Michigan, visit www.Shri2018.com.

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