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Please attribute to Chris Pisciotta, Attorney-In-Charge of the Staten Island Trial Office at The Legal Aid Society:

“It is shameful that our elected officials are pouring energy into undoing the well-vetted historic criminal legal reforms enacted in April. It is especially tragic when these officials have the power and influence to end the suffering of thousands of New Yorkers who are plagued by a system – by building communities up – and choose not to. Public safety improves with healthy and stable families and communities, and studies show pre-trial jailing undermines both. Our outgoing laws eviscerated the presumption of innocence, punished New Yorkers pretrial who cannot afford to buy liberty, and distorted justice by coercing guilty pleas to gain freedom from jail. Data from non-profit bail funds and supervised release programs prove that people who are released will return to court. Crime continues to be at historic lows, per the New York City Police Department’s own numbers. We should not turn to fear-mongering to cling desperately to a failed system long in need of reform to bring New York in line with the rest of the nation.”