



January 7, 2020

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*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

***STATEMENT ON GOVERNOR CUOMO'S PROPOSAL TO BAN
NEW YORKERS WITH CERTAIN PAST CONVICTIONS FROM
USING OUR MASS TRANSIT SYSTEM***

(NEW YORK, NY) – **The Legal Aid Society** released the following statement in response to New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo's 33rd proposal of his 2020 State of the State agenda which would restrict New Yorkers with certain past convictions from using mass transit:

"No one supports unwanted sexual touching on the subway, but this wrongheaded proposal from Governor Cuomo will do far more harm than good. It will further marginalize this group of New Yorkers - many of whom are New Yorkers of color - who are profiled by police when they use mass transit. It will sever their access to jobs, critical services, educational opportunities, and treatment programs. Albany should spend less time finding new ways to demonize our already over-policed clients and more time creating opportunities for treatment and necessary services. Finally, we question the constitutionality of this misguided proposal and we are prepared to challenge it in court should it become law."

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The Legal Aid Society exists for one simple yet powerful reason: to ensure that New Yorkers are not denied their right to equal justice because of poverty. For over 140 years, we have protected, defended, and advocated for those who have struggled in silence for far too long. Every day, in every borough, The Legal Aid Society changes the lives of our clients and helps improve our communities. <https://www.legalaidnyc.org>