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

## ***Legal Aid Applauds Governor Cuomo For Condemning Requirement That Judges Predict Future Crimes When Considering Bail***

(NEW YORK, NY) – **The Legal Aid Society** applauded New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo for condemning the notion that judges should be required to predict future crimes when considering bail – a notion that underlies efforts to rollback last year’s critically important bail reforms. At an unrelated press conference, Governor Cuomo stated that - “The dangerous standard basically takes us back to where we were.”

**Tina Luongo, Attorney-in-Charge of the Criminal Defense Practice**, said - “We applaud Governor Cuomo for again defending these historic reforms and for condemning a bail practice which essentially compels judges to engage in the wholly unreliable guesswork of predicting future crimes. Research study after research study shows that these assessments are inevitably infected with racial bias, disproportionately targeting Black and Latinx individuals. It is an unabashedly regressive and wholly unreliable policy tool. Albany was right not to incorporate ‘dangerousness’ last year when bail reform was enacted. Allowing such guesswork would have ballooned pretrial incarceration numbers and eviscerated the plan to close Rikers Island. It would thus have completely gutted the spirit and intention of these new laws.”

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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>*