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

Statement On NYS Senate Majority Proposal To Roll Back Bail Reform

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society, The Bronx Defenders, New York County Defender Services, Brooklyn Defender Services and Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem issued the following statement in response to a proposal by the New York State Senate Majority to roll back bail reform:

“The State Senate Majority’s proposal puts politics over people by not only rolling back the critical and long-needed reforms that they endorsed and championed only a few months ago, but creating a much more regressive system for pre-trial detention.

“If enacted, this proposal would dramatically increase the number of people languishing in jail who are presumed innocent. It would create a system where even innocent people would be incarcerated with no chance of release, even if their families and friends were able to post a bond for them.

“Even worse, it presumes that judges, prosecutors and potentially, algorithms, can predict the behavior of other people, something that is proven impossible. This will result in injustice for everyone in New York and will certainly end up exacerbating racially disparate outcomes.

“As attorneys for the people whose lives and families would be destroyed by this legislation, we adamantly oppose any changes to the bail law as it is written. These proposed changes give credence to the fear and hate-mongering that has pervaded the public discourse about bail and pre-trial detention in general.”

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