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

Legal Aid Statement Condemning Gov. Cuomo's Attempt to Significantly Cut Medicaid Funding for Essential Home Care Services Through an Accelerated NYS Budget

As Public Health Experts Warn Americans Should Stay Home To Slow COVID-19 Spread, New York Must Preserve Medicaid Programs That Allow Vulnerable People To Remain in Their Households

(NEW YORK, NY) – Janet Sabel, CEO and Attorney-in-Charge of The Legal Aid Society issued the following statement condemning Governor Andrew Cuomo for attempting to significantly cut Medicaid funding for critical home care services through an accelerated budget agreement amid the COVID-19 pandemic:

“Governor Cuomo said last week that our family members were ‘not expendable,’ yet thousands of vulnerable individuals and families will soon be put in jeopardy if the Medicaid cuts proposed by the Governor are enacted. Slashing Medicaid funding for vital home care services for elderly New Yorkers and individuals with disabilities will force people, who could safely live at home, into institutions – which could be deadly for this high-risk population.

Amid a global pandemic that has already claimed so many lives, forgoing more than \$6 billion in federal funding in order to push through a budget with damaging Medicaid cuts is shortsighted and cruel. Even before the COVID-19 crisis began, the Medicaid Redesign Team II (MRT)

short-circuited the regular budget process, taking away advocates' and legislators' opportunities to carefully consider Executive proposals since January. The MRT proposals which were only revealed in detail last week make significant changes that are very likely to harm beneficiaries, in direct opposition to Cuomo's premise that no human life is disposable."

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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.

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