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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

As NYS Legislature Convenes, Legal Aid and Advocates Urge Albany To Pass “Good Cause” Eviction Bill Amid COVID-19 Crisis

Lawmakers Must Enact Budget Neutral Legislation To Protection 1.6 Million Households In “Market Rate” Homes Across the State

(New York, NY) — **The Legal Aid Society, Community Service Society, Community Voices Heard, Citizen Action of New York, Make The Road New York, and New York Communities for Change** today issued a [letter](#) to Albany leaders to prioritize the “Good Cause” eviction bill ([A5030B/S2892B](#)) as the NYS Legislature convenes for the first time since April. Budget neutral legislation, like Good Cause, is essential to help mitigate the devastating consequences of this crisis and keep families in their homes, especially amid the coronavirus outbreak that has drained the state economy and left many housing priorities out of the Fiscal Year 2021 budget.

Nearly [80% of New Yorkers](#) support passing Good Cause legislation, and a majority of Democratic state senators and assembly members have signed on to the bill. The bill would give every tenant in New York State the right to a renewal lease and protection against unreasonable rent increases, and would require landlords to have “just cause” to evict a tenant in an

unregulated or “market-rate” housing unit. Approximately [1.6 million households](#) could benefit from the legislation.

The letter states, “*Millions of New Yorkers have lost their jobs, and many who were already struggling to get by are at their absolute breaking point. [Reports](#) of families having to choose between paying their rent and affording food permeate the media. While tenants in rent-stabilized apartments have the possibility of a rent freeze (pending the Rent Guidelines Board vote to grant one), tenants in non-regulated housing have no protection from exorbitant rent increases—which is tantamount to an eviction in this climate.*”

To view the letter, [click here](#).

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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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