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

***Legal Aid Calls on New York Senate and Assembly to
Reconvene to Extend Statewide Eviction Moratorium
Indefinitely***

***Moratorium Expires in Exactly One Month, Leaving
Hundreds of Thousands of Families Vulnerable to Losing
Their Homes***

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society sent a [letter](#) to New York State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie urging the Legislature to reconvene session immediately to advance legislative measures that would extend the eviction moratorium indefinitely. The statewide eviction moratorium is set to expire in exactly one month, leaving hundreds of thousands of families vulnerable to eviction shortly thereafter.

The letter states:

If we allow evictions to take place at the cusp of a second wave – and right before the flu season and cold weather – we will be flooding homeless shelters, subways, and streets at the very moment where we need to keep people housed to mitigate the spread of the virus and avoidable deaths.

The prospect of evicting thousands of New Yorkers does not represent the progressive values of the State of New York. Moreover, it is well documented that the pandemic has disproportionately

impacted low-income people of color. If you don't extend the moratorium, New Yorkers who were living on the brink of poverty before the crisis will face catastrophic consequences, including food instability and homelessness.

Legal Aid previously raised concerns about 14,000 households in New York City that had active eviction warrants before the pandemic this past March and are vulnerable to possible City Marshal enforcement once the moratorium expires. Many more families in upstate and western New York will also find themselves in a similar situation once the moratorium expires.

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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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