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

***Legal Aid Condemns New Proposed Rule by Labor  
Department Which Would Strip Workers of Fundamental  
Rights While on the Job***

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society issued the following statement today responding to a proposed new [regulation](#) issued by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) which seeks to redefine how someone is determined an employee or independent contractor under The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA):

“This proposed rule would make it much easier to falsely classify workers as independent contractors and circumvent basic employee rights while on the job. Amid a global pandemic, we should be strengthening worker protections and ensuring that employers cannot grossly exploit those who work for them, not the other way around.

Moreover, it is unacceptable that the Department is attempting to ram this rule through before the end of this presidential term by only providing 30 days in the comment period — a process for which the Department normally allows at least 60 days. We’re calling for the Department of Labor to uphold the integrity of its process and extend the comment period for this proposed rule for at least 30 additional days.”

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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>*