

THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY

Justice in Every Borough.

April 1, 2021

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

Statement on the Governor Signing the HALT Solitary Confinement Bill Into Law

(NEW YORK, NY) – Tina Luongo, Attorney-in-Charge of the Criminal Defense Practice at The Legal Aid Society, issued the following statement on the Humane Alternatives to Long-Term Solitary Confinement Act (HALT S. 2836/A.2277) becoming law:

“As we have previously stated, this historic moment is a product of tireless work by New Yorkers who have been directly impacted by inhumane confinement practices, their families and communities, and advocates who would not relent until this legislation was finally signed into law. Solitary confinement is torture, and today is a significant step towards eradicating the use of torture in prisons and jails throughout New York State.

However, there is more work to do in Albany. Lawmakers must enact additional critical criminal justice reforms this session including desperately needed parole reform: the Less Is More Act, Fair and Timely Parole, and Elder Parole, all measures that have wide-ranging support from public defender organizations and members of law enforcement alike.”

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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 145 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. www.legalaidnyc.org