



April 12, 2021
For immediate release:

*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

***NYS's Annual \$1 Billion Wage-Theft Problem Worsens
During Pandemic***

***Workers, Supporters and Legislators Call for the SWEAT bill
so Workers are Paid for Their Work***

(New York, NY)—The SWEAT Coalition, who have been organizing to end wage theft in New York, will hold a press conference in front of Governor Cuomo's office on April 13. The Coalition includes worker centers, unions, legal services providers, religious organizations, and high-road business organizations, along with sponsors of the SWEAT bill, Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal and Senator Jessica Ramos. Together, they will call for New Yorkers, legislators and Governor Cuomo to support the passage of the SWEAT Bill, A766/S2762, to address the rampant problem of wage theft.

Currently, employers can easily transfer and hide their assets instead of paying workers their owed wages. As a result, workers cannot recover unpaid wages, despite receiving court judgments or Labor Department decisions. Wage theft--the failure to pay minimum wage, overtime, and all the hours worked-- affects all kinds of workers, and has only worsened with the Covid-19 pandemic. It renders any minimum-wage increase meaningless if workers can't get access to owed wages in the first place.

Speakers at the press conference will include legislators, workers who have had wages stolen from them, and coalition representatives.

What: In-person Press Conference

When: Tuesday, April 13, 11:00 am

Where: Governor Cuomo's NYC Office, 633 3rd Avenue New York, NY

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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