

THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY

Justice in Every Borough.

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

Legal Aid Statement on Albany Enacting the NY HERO Act

(NEW YORK, NY) – Young Lee, Director of the Employment Law Unit with the Civil Practice at The Legal Aid Society, released the following statement in response to New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo signing the HERO Act, legislation to codify critical workplace protections for New Yorkers to defend against COVID-19 exposure and employer retaliation related to raising health concerns:

“With this pen stroke, Albany ensures that those New Yorkers who have been on the frontlines providing a critical service throughout the pandemic are duly protected from COVID-19 exposure in the workplace and from any employer retaliation related to raising health concerns.

The Legal Aid Society lauds our allies in the Senate and the Assembly for championing and advancing this legislation, and Governor Cuomo for signing it. But the real credit goes to the workers, those New Yorkers who have put their lives on the line since last March to provide an essential service, who would not relent until Albany enacted this legislation.

When this legislation becomes effective, Legal Aid will monitor to ensure that employers are closely following the law and not violating our clients’ rights.”

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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. www.legalaidnyc.org