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

Legal Aid Lauds Passage of Legislation to Provide Life-Saving Medication to Incarcerated People

(NEW YORK, NY) – Tina Luongo, Attorney-In-Charge of the Criminal Defense Practice at The Legal Aid Society, today issued the following statement lauding the New York State Assembly and the New York State Senate for passing legislation ([S1795/A533](#)) to make life-saving Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) available to all incarcerated people and called on Governor Cuomo to sign the bill into law immediately:

“There is a well-documented opioid crisis nationwide, and New York State is no exception. The State Department of Health has reported a sharp increase in opioid overdose deaths in recent years and the risk of overdose from opioid use is especially dangerous for people who are or have been incarcerated.

MOUD is the standard of care for opioid use disorder, and it is essential to preventing opioid overdose. Making medication available to incarcerated people will save lives.

We thank Senator Jamaal Bailey and Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal for their courageous leadership in steering this legislation and we call on Governor Cuomo to sign the bill immediately.”

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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