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

Legal Aid Statement on BOC Vote Relating to City Solitary Confinement Practice

(NEW YORK, NY) – Mary Lynne Werlwas, Director of the Prisoners’ Rights Project at The Legal Aid Society, today issued the following statement in response to a New York City Board of Correction [vote](#) earlier today on the City’s solitary confinement practices:

“The New York City Board of Correction’s vote today to approve a new form of punitive segregation in the New York City jails belies the promises of reform of the broken, abusive system of punishment and isolation. Rather than ending inhumane practices in compliance with the recently enacted HALT Solitary Confinement Act, the new rules re-brand punishment as the ‘Risk Management Accountability System’ but maintain fundamentally punitive features.

Most critically, the rules provide no limit on how long an incarcerated person may be sentenced to these cages, as the rules give the Department permission to extend a sentence forever, without ever disclosing the secret information that purportedly justifies this deprivation.

For five years, people who have survived the City jails, and the loved ones of people who did not survive, have implored the City and Board of Correction to reform this system. Today’s vote is a rejection of their pleas, and a step back in creating transparency and stability in the City jails.”

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