

June 10, 2021

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

Legal Aid Calls on Governor Cuomo to Enact The Less Is More Act into Law Immediately

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society, in response to the New York State Legislature fully passing the Less Is More Act (S1144A/A5576A), called on Governor Andrew Cuomo to enact the legislation immediately into law.

The Less Is More Act - which has garnered wide ranging support from public defenders, prosecutors, criminal justice reform advocates and impacted communities - would reform New York State's parole revocation system by eliminating mandatory detention for those charged with violating the terms of their parole, creating a path to earned discharge from supervision, and placing caps on incarceration for technical violations of parole.

"Less Is More is a critical first step to reforming New York State's punitive and racially discriminatory parole revocation system," said **Lorraine McEvilley, Director of the Parole Revocation Defense Unit at The Legal Aid Society.** "The legislation will end mandatory detention for those accused of parole violations, provide greater procedural protections during the parole revocation process, and create an earned path to discharge from supervision. We look forward to working with the New York State Legislature next session to ensure that our clients do not continue to face harsh penalties, including years in prison for low-level, non-violent conduct, merely because they are under parole supervision."

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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. <u>www.legalaidnyc.org</u>