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

Legal Aid Statement on Gov. Kathy Hochul Signing the Less Is More Act

(NEW YORK, NY) - Tina Luongo, Attorney-In-Charge of the Criminal Defense Practice at The Legal Aid Society, released the following statement in response to Governor Kathy Hochul signing the Less Is More Act, critical legislation that provides much needed reforms to the administration of parole supervision by eliminating incarceration for most minor noncriminal violations, requiring prompt judicial review of parole violation charges, placing caps on revocation sanctions, and providing a path to earned discharge from supervision:

“With the stroke of a pen, New York now finally turns the page on a draconian parole revocation system that helped perpetuate mass incarceration for decades. The legislation - if implemented by the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) immediately - will provide essential relief to the ongoing humanitarian crisis at Rikers Island by securing the release of over two hundred people currently held on non-criminal, technical parole violations. The Legal Aid Society lauds Governor Kathy Hochul and the Legislature for enacting this critical bill into law which will literally save lives.”

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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