

THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY

Justice in Every Borough.

December 3, 2022

Contact:

Redmond Haskins
The Legal Aid Society
rhaskins@legal-aid.org
(929) 441-2384

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

Ahead of Legislative Conference on 2022 Statewide Housing Priorities, Legal Aid Calls on Albany to Enact Key Measures to Serve NYS Tenants

(NEW YORK, NY) - **The Legal Aid Society**, ahead of legislators convening in Albany to discuss statewide 2022 legislative priorities, called on Albany to enact three key housing measures to serve vulnerable tenants.

Good Cause Eviction (Salazar/Hunter) (S3082)

- Protections from unjust evictions for all renters, with specific provisions allowing limited rent increases based on consumer price index.
- Provide basic protections to millions of unregulated renters across the State.
- Allows eviction only for good cause, such as nonpayment of rent, owner-use or lease violations.

Housing Access Voucher Program (Kavanagh/Cymbrowitz) (S280A/A3701)

- Creates a rental assistance program for New Yorkers who are currently homeless or are at risk of homelessness, including undocumented New Yorkers and those who are not currently on public assistance.
- Modeled after the federal Section 8 voucher program.

Public Housing Preservation Trust

- The Public Housing Preservation Trust would propose transferring 110,000 apartments to a newly created public entity that would expedite repairs and improvements and allow the properties to receive more funding through switching from a Section 9 subsidy to Tenant Protection Vouchers or Section 8.
- NYCHA would remain a permanent owner of the properties, and a long-term ground lease with the Trust would allow NYCHA to raise money for major rehabilitations, a function many government agencies, including the MTA, already enjoy.

“If anything, the pandemic has laid bare the need for comprehensive housing policies that provide tenants with eviction protections; open opportunities for homeless families to secure permanent, affordable housing; and resources to meet the capital demands of our aging public housing infrastructure,” said **Judith Goldiner, Attorney-In-Charge of the Civil Law Reform Unit at The Legal Aid Society**. “As Legislators convene in Albany to discuss housing priorities heading into next session, we again call on Albany to enact this common-sense package of legislation that will immediately serve millions across New York State.”

###

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