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Contact:

Redmond Haskins
Director of Media Relations
rhaskins@legal-aid.org
929.441.2384

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

Legal Aid Statement in Response to Legislature Leaders Rejecting Regressive Changes to Bail Reform and Raise The Age

(NEW YORK, NY) - **The Legal Aid Society** released the following statement in response to the rejection by Legislature leaders of regressive changes to bail reform and Raise The Age:

“Legislature leaders and other lawmakers have made it abundantly clear: bail reform and Raise The Age were necessary changes and these measures are here to stay.

Adding a ‘dangerousness provision’ to the existing bail statute would only cycle more Black and Latinx New Yorkers through our broken and punitive criminal legal system, feeding mass incarceration. Returning to a system where New York incarcerates more youth will not work because it never reduced crime nor benefited public safety in the 100 years before Raise the Age or bail reform were passed.

Albany lawmakers, in response to cries from their constituents for immediate action, were right to usher in sweeping changes to a system that has historically failed to drive down crime and recidivism. The Legal Aid Society stands in solidarity with Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie and other lawmakers who prioritize communities over cages and age-appropriate responses for teenagers.”

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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