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

Legal Aid Statement on the NYS Legislature’s One-House Budget Proposal Which Would Finally Sunset Costly and Ineffective Real Estate Tax Breaks, Saving New York City Taxpayers Hundreds of Millions of Dollars

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society lauded the New York State Legislature’s one-house budget proposal, which removes Governor Hochul’s proposed ‘reform’ to 421-A, 485-W, allowing the costly and ineffective real estate tax break, which has yielded minimal affordable housing to low-tenants in need to finally expire.

“421-A has always been a boondoggle, generating very little truly affordable housing for the communities we represent,” said **Judith Goldiner, Attorney-In-Charge of the Civil Law Reform Unit at The Legal Aid Society**. “Governor Hochul’s proposed ‘reform’ to 421-A, 485-W, is just another version of the fundamentally flawed tax break, and is in many ways much worse. We laud the Senate and Assembly for taking this costly tax break out of the proposed budget, which would save New York City hundreds of millions of dollars each year, and call on the City to use these potential funds to expand already proven housing programs - including CityFHEPS, a highly successful voucher initiative that has so far connected thousands of New Yorkers to safe and affordable housing.”

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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