



March 21, 2022

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

Legal Aid: Governor Hochul’s Crime Plan Would Take New York State Backwards, Undoing Historic Pretrial Reforms and Raise The Age

(NEW YORK, NY) - **The Legal Aid Society** released the following statement today condemning Governor Hochul for attempting to [undo](#) historic pretrial reforms, which were ushered into law in 2019, as well as Raise The Age:

“Governor Hochul’s 11th hour Hail Mary to undo critical reforms to bail, speedy trial, discovery and Raise The Age is shameful and cynical. Eroding these reforms will condemn thousands of our clients to cages, at dangerous, poorly supervised facilities across New York City. Hochul’s rollbacks to Raise The Age will deny kids age appropriate treatment, forcing them to face adult consequences when they are not adults.

To be clear, Governor Hochul’s 10-point ‘public safety’ plan follows the playbook of the ‘crime bills’ of the 1990s, preying on New Yorkers’ fears of criminals. This is not a public safety plan, this is an incarceration plan, and it is a slap in the face to all the impacted New Yorkers who stood by patiently until elected officials finally enacted these long overdue reforms.

At the behest of law enforcement, Governor Hochul’s proposal specifically seeks to gut Kalief’s Law, transformative legislation directed at ensuring that New Yorkers do not languish in cages during the pendency of their cases, enacted in remembrance of Kalief Browder who spent years at Rikers Island for allegedly stealing a backpack.

New York tried a ‘tough on crime’ approach for decades and it failed. Governor Hochul’s proposal will only succeed at caging more Black and Latinx New Yorkers, botching an historic opportunity to further public safety by prioritizing communities, not cages.”

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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.legalaidsnyc.org