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

NYC Defenders Call on Albany to Pass Critical Criminal Legal System Reforms Before the Legislative Session Concludes in Early June

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society, Brooklyn Defender Services, The Bronx Defenders, New York County Defender Services, the Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem and Queens Defenders [called](#) on Albany lawmakers to enact a series of critical criminal legal system reforms before session concludes in early June.

These measures include:

- Clean Slate Act – S1553C (Myrie) / A6399A (Cruz)
- Elder Parole – S15 (Hoylman) / A3475 (De La Rosa)
- Fair and Timely Parole – S1415 (Rivera) / A4231 (Weprin)
- Treatment Not Jail Act– S2881B (Ramos) / A8524A (Forrest)
- End Predatory Court Fees – S3979C (Salazar) / A2348B (Niou)
- Promote Pre-Trial Stability and Ensure Judicial Review of Orders of Protection (PromPT Stability Act) – S2832B (Ramos) / A4558B (Quart)
- Secure Due Process Protections and Protect Fundamental Rights to Appellate Review – S1280 and S1281 (Bailey) / A5687 and A5688

The NYC Defenders stated, “In the remaining weeks of the legislative session, lawmakers must prioritize and pass bills that will address root causes of criminal legal system involvement – reforms that decarcerate jails and prisons and create safer communities. The heavy hand of law enforcement has never solved the many issues facing neighborhoods we serve; it has only exacerbated them by fueling mass incarceration. It’s time Albany advances measures that center investment and prevention.”

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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