

May 3, 2022

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*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

In Response to the Continued Humanitarian Crisis at Rikers Island, Defenders, Impacted New Yorkers, Elected Officials and Others to Hold Advocacy Day, Press Conference Demanding the Passage of the Treatment Not Jail Act

Legislation Will Dramatically Increase Public Safety and Reduce Jail and Prison Population by Diverting Individuals with Substance Use and Mental Health Issues to Treatment

(ALBANY, NY) – Public defenders, advocates and experts in the fields of mental health and substance use, impacted New Yorkers, elected officials and others, in response to the continued humanitarian crisis engulfing Rikers Island, will hold an advocacy day and press conference calling on Albany to pass the Treatment Not Jail Act ([S.2881B](#) - Ramos / [A.8524A](#) - Forrest), legislation to ensure that New Yorkers with substance use, mental health and other challenges have an off-ramp from the criminal legal system to obtain treatment and support in their communities rather than jail.

What: Press conference calling on Albany to enact the Treatment Not Jail Act ([S.2881B](#) - Ramos / [A.8524A](#) - Forrest)

Who: Senator Jessica Ramos, Assembly Member Phara Souffrant Forrest, Assembly Member Anna Kelles, Assembly Member Nathalia Fernandez, The Legal Aid Society, New York County Defender Services, The Redemption Center, Urban Justice Center and others.

When: Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at 10:30 AM

Where: Million Dollar Staircase, NYS Capitol, Albany, NY 12224

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