

THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY

Justice in Every Borough.

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

Legal Aid Calls on Governor Hochul to Sign Legislation That Would Increase Needed Oversight of the For-Profit Immigration Bond Industry and Curb Abusive Practices

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society called on Governor Kathy Hochul to sign [S7475/A0770](#), legislation that would provide much needed oversight of the for-profit immigration bond industry and curb abusive practices. This bill, which passed the full Legislature earlier this year, was recently transmitted to Governor Hochul for action.

“New York’s immigration bond industry operates essentially with zero oversight, and our clients and their loved ones suffer as a result,” said **Deborah Lee, attorney-in-charge of the Immigration Law Unit at The Legal Aid Society**. “Unable to afford their own freedom, immigrant New Yorkers turn to for-profit bond companies who charge exorbitant fees, driving many deep into debt. The lack of regulation and oversight perpetuates this reality, and we call on Governor Hochul to sign this bill into law at once.”

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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 over 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