

THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY

Justice in Every Borough.

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

Legal Aid Urges Legislature to Continue to Reject Governor Hochul’s Proposed Rollbacks to New York’s Successful Bail Reform Law

(NEW YORK, NY) — **The Legal Aid Society** released the following statement urging Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie and members of the Legislature to continue to reject Governor Kathy Hochul’s proposed regressive rollbacks to New York’s successful bail reform law:

“Lawmakers have always maintained that data would drive the conversation on bail reform, and the data continue to confirm that the law has only furthered public safety across New York State.

“Governor Kathy Hochul’s hijacking of the budget process to force through rollbacks is not based on merit, but is merely a desperate political attempt to beef up her ‘tough on crime’ bona fides with portions of the electorate. This is obvious to anyone with eyes to see.

“Eliminating the ‘least restrictive’ standard and returning our state to an era where more Black and Latinx New Yorkers are jailed *en masse* pretrial is a scenario that the Legislature must continue to outright reject.

“The Chicken-Little narrative on bail reform peddled by politicians and tabloids is not the reality, and lawmakers must adhere to their pledge to focus on the data, not sensationalized rhetoric unrooted in facts.”

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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