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Statement from Legal Aid on Governor Hochul’s Executive Order Handout to Real Estate at the Expense of Tenants in Need of Urgent Relief

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society released the following statement condemning Governor Kathy Hochul for issuing an executive order to allow certain developers to enjoy tax benefits, similar to those afforded by 421a, while excluding any protections for tenants:

“With this executive order, Governor Hochul continues to ignore the urgent needs of tenants statewide who are struggling each month to make rent.

“The Governor had ample opportunity this past session to act on New York’s proliferating eviction and homelessness crisis, and the Legislature offered a package of proposals that included measures addressing both the construction of new housing and immediate tenant protections.

“The Governor rejected this package, and she is now trying to save face with this executive order, one that is legally dubious at best, which will fail to ensure housing affordability in the short-term and accomplishes nothing to stabilize communities and keep tenants housed.

“We call on Senate Majority Andrew Stewart-Cousins, Assembly Speaker Heastie and members of the Legislature to return to Albany and advance ‘Good Cause’ eviction and the Housing Access Voucher Program, proposals that have enough support for passage through both houses, to deliver the desperate relief that our clients need now.”

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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