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

Legal Aid Calls on Governor Hochul to Sign Bill to Create Black Youth Suicide Prevention Task Force

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society released the following statement in response to the New York State Legislature transmitting [legislation](#) to Governor Kathy Hochul which would establish the Black Youth Suicide Prevention task force to examine, evaluate, and determine how to improve mental health and suicide prevention for New York's Black residents aged five through 18.

“Establishing this task force has the potential to improve the mental health and well-being of one of New York City’s most vulnerable populations. The creation of a dedicated task force will help focus attention on the steps New York must take to improve its mental health care system and protect Black youth, potentially improving the lives of thousands of young New Yorkers. We encourage Governor Hochul to sign this bill into law without delay.”

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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