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

Legal Aid Calls on Governor Hochul to Sign Bill To Better Inform Immigrants of Deportation Risks Associated With Plea Deals

(NEW YORK, NY) - **The Legal Aid Society** today called on Governor Kathy Hochul to sign [legislation](#) to ensure that all New Yorkers born outside of the United States are aware that if they plead guilty to certain crimes, even minor ones, they could face deportation or denial of citizenship. If the court fails to inform the defendant about these potential immigration consequences and the defendant pleads guilty, that plea can be considered uninformed and potentially overturned. This legislation was just transmitted from the New York State Legislature to Governor Hochul for consideration.

“All defendants deserve to be fully aware of the potentially life-altering consequences of accepting a plea deal in court, especially immigrants who may be putting their citizenship on the line,” said **Amanda Jack, Policy Director of the Criminal Defense Practice at The Legal Aid Society**. “Nine other U.S. states already have similar legislation in place to protect the rights of their foreign-born residents, and New York — a state that millions of immigrants call home — should unequivocally follow suit. We urge Governor Hochul to sign this bill into law without hesitation to ensure that all New Yorkers’ constitutional rights are protected.”

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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 140 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