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## **\*\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\*\***

## Statement on Senate and Assembly One-House Budget Proposals

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society issued the following statement in response to the respective onehouse budgets released by the New York State Senate and New York State Assembly:

"The respective one-house budget proposals make it clear that the Legislature is finally ready to pass 'Good Cause' eviction, statewide legislation that would provide immediate and meaningful relief to so many New Yorkers who are facing housing insecurity.

"We remind lawmakers that Governor Hochul's budget failed to include any tenant protections, and it's now incumbent on the Legislature to see the inclusion of 'Good Cause' into the final budget.

"We also laud Senate and Assembly lawmakers for including essential funding for public defender organizations and Attorneys for Children providers to address staffing and other operational needs that have plagued these offices for years.

"We applaud the Assembly's inclusion of <u>legislation</u> to assist attorneys serving the public interest manage exorbitant student loan debt. On the heels of the Senate's passage of the same, we thank lawakers for understanding that this nominal investment, one that would have a life-changing impact for many of our staff, should be included in the final budget and finally codified into law.

"The Legal Aid Society thanks Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie and legislators of both chambers for putting forth a budget response that will serve justice and fairness throughout New York State."

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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. <u>www.legalaidnyc.org</u>