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

***Statement in Response to Reporting on the NYS Assembly Refusing to Advance Legislation that would Unfairly Prejudice New Yorkers Accused of Certain Crimes***

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society released the following statement in response to [reporting](#) that the New York State Assembly will not pass [legislation](#) this session that would unfairly prejudice New Yorkers accused of certain crimes:

"This was a knee jerk reaction to a media moment, and thankfully the Assembly understood the devastating consequences this legislation would have on the rights of New Yorkers accused of a crime if it were enacted into law.

"The Legal Aid Society applauds Speaker Heastie for refusing to yield to external pressures to ramrod this bill through the Assembly, one devoid of any meaningful research, debate, or of public feedback - the minimum standard for legislation that could yield such wide-waging consequences for the general public."

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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 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](http://www.legalaidnyc.org)*