THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY

Justice in Every Borough.

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Legal Aid Calls on Governor Kathy Hochul to Sign Adoption Subsidy Reform Into Law

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society today called on Governor Kathy Hochul to sign into law adoption subsidy reform, which was just transmitted by the Legislature to the Governor for consideration. This measure would establish a legal mechanism to ensure that all funds provided by the State to support a child adopted out of foster care continue to benefit the child — rather than the adoptive parent — if the parent becomes unwilling or unable to provide care.

Dawne Mitchell, Chief Attorney of the Juvenile Rights Practice at The Legal Aid Society, issued the following statement:

"It is imperative that all funds intended to support the care and maintenance of children adopted from foster care are used exclusively for that purpose.

"Children who are adopted from foster care have been found to be significantly more likely to suffer from physical, mental and behavioral issues requiring special services than their peers. Adoption subsidies were established to help ensure these children's needs continue to be met after adoption. However, under the current system, even when an adoptive parent is no longer providing any support to the child, they may still receive these funds.

"This legislation introduces a much-needed mechanism to ensure that adoption subsidies are always directed toward meeting the needs of the child. These reforms are long overdue, and we strongly urge 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