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Legal Aid Calls on Governor Hochul to Sign the Safe Landings Act, Legislation to Help Older Youth Leaving Foster Care Obtain Stable Housing and Other Critical Benefits

(NEW YORK, NY) - **The Legal Aid Society** today urged Governor Hochul to sign the [Safe Landings Act](#), a bill transmitted from the Legislature to the Governor earlier today for consideration. The legislation would extend the duration for which New York Family Courts can enforce orders supporting older foster youth, helping them secure safe and stable housing as well as other critical resources during their transition out of the foster care system and into independent living.

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

“Young people aging out of or being discharged from foster care to live on their own are some of the most vulnerable members of our community, with a significantly higher likelihood of experiencing homelessness compared to their peers.

“Currently, when a young person leaves foster care, they immediately lose access to the support of the Family Court to enforce orders intended to ensure that they can find suitable housing and employment, complete their education, and obtain driver’s licenses.

“The Safe Landings Act provides a common-sense solution to this issue by expanding the Family Court’s ability to enforce these orders of support on behalf of New Yorkers, in most cases until they turn 22. This legislation would protect our clients who leave foster care and struggle to live on their own, the vast majority of whom are Black and Latinx youth from low-income communities, by increasing the time they have access to a vital safety

net. We strongly urge Governor Hochul to promptly sign this essential bill into law.”

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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