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Legal Aid Issues Open Letter Calling on Lawmakers to Pass Key Reforms Within the First 90 Days of 2025 to Protect Vulnerable New Yorkers

Lawmakers Must Prioritize Legislation to Defend Low-Income Women and Children, Immigrants, New Yorkers of Color, LGBTQ+ People, Tenants, and Workers

(ALBANY, NY) - The Legal Aid Society released an [open letter](#) today addressed to Governor Kathy Hochul, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, and Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie calling on lawmakers to enact critical legislation within the first 90 days of 2025 to strengthen protections for low-income women and children, immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ+ people, tenants, and workers.

New York State must take decisive steps to protect vulnerable populations that have already been declared targets during campaign speeches and through the words, deeds and positions of current nominees for cabinet and federal appointments and simultaneously carry forth the ongoing agenda of making New York families and our communities stronger.

Some of these pressing measures include the:

- New York for All Act ([Gounardes S987/ Reyes A5686](#)) which would prohibit local law enforcement across the state from colluding with ICE.
- Coverage4All Act ([Rivera S2237B/ Gonzalez-Rojas A3020B](#)) which would seek federal funding to cover 150,000 income-eligible immigrants in the Essential Plan. It would also save over \$400 million in State Emergency Medicaid.
- Housing Access Voucher Program ([Kavanagh S568B/ Rosenthal A4021](#)) which creates a state-wide Section 8 program which allows localities to extend benefits regardless of immigration status. The

Governor's Child Poverty Reduction Advisory Council (CPRAC) recommends a similar program.

- Temporary Disability Insurance and Paid Leave bill ([Ramos S9840 / Solages A10561](#)) which increases the number of benefits available to people with temporary disabilities, provides job protection, and expands protections under the existing paid family leave program regardless of immigration status.

Read the letter and complete list of priorities here: <https://tinyurl.com/b63bwc2f>

“Given the threats facing so many vulnerable New Yorkers, we urge Governor Hochul, Senate Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins, and Assembly Speaker Heastie to enact these priorities into law within the first 90 days of 2025,” said **Twyla Carter, Attorney-In-Chief and Chief Executive Officer of The Legal Aid Society**. “By prioritizing legislation that protects vulnerable New Yorkers — including low-income women and children, immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ+ individuals, tenants, and workers — lawmakers will equip New York to meet the challenges of the incoming administration with the urgency this moment demands.”

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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 nearly 150 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