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

Legal Aid Statement on Agreement Between DOCCS and NYSCOPBA

(NEW YORK, NY) - **The Legal Aid Society** released the following statement reacting to reports of an agreement between the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) and the New York State Correctional Officers and Police Benevolent Association (NYSCOPBA) in response to the ongoing illegal strike at prisons across the state:

“Correctional officers staged an unauthorized strike for more than a week, during which three more incarcerated individuals lost their lives.

“The proposed deal between the state and the correctional union raises more questions than answers. When will correctional staff return to work? Will any officers be held accountable for breaking the law, endangering lives, and forcing people into prolonged cell confinement—missing medical care, legal visits, and family time? When does the 90-day emergency end? Most importantly, why hasn’t the state taken meaningful action to address staffing shortages by granting clemency and closing obsolete prisons?

“The public deserves clarity, and this moment demands more than an agreement that seeks to erode the HALT Solitary law and prioritizes appeasement over accountability.”

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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.

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