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

### *Legal Aid Statement on Senate, Assembly One-House Budgets*

**(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society** issued the following statement in response to the New York State Senate and New York State Assembly one-house budgets:

“The Legal Aid Society commends the Legislature for rejecting Governor Kathy Hochul's misguided proposal to repeal discovery reforms, which would return us to an era marked by wrongful convictions, mass incarceration, coerced pleas, and court delays.

“Before considering changes to the statute, lawmakers must allow the tens of millions of dollars allocated in recent years to fully take effect, including funding for technological improvements that local District Attorney offices have only just begun to implement.

“Allowing this funding to take hold, along with advancing [legislation](#) introduced in January that would grant prosecutors direct access to police evidence databases, is not only sound policymaking but also consistent with Albany's efforts to make the criminal legal system more just for everyone.

“We implore both the Senate and Assembly to continue standing firm against the Governor’s proposal, which would unravel the efforts these bodies fought so hard to enact just a few short years ago.”

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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. <https://www.legalaidnyc.org>*