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

***Statement on Governor Hochul’s Continued Misleading Comments About  
Discovery Reform***

**(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society** released the following statement in response to Governor Kathy Hochul’s continued misleading comments about discovery reform:

“All week, the Governor has toured up and down the Hudson River, repeating false claims about the discovery process while failing to establish any direct correlation between the reform and its alleged impact on public safety.

“On Monday, flanked by survivors of domestic violence, the Governor attempted to legitimize her extreme push to dismantle discovery reform by unveiling three reports from the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence. We’ve reviewed them closely — not a single one is meaningfully focused discovery. This isn’t evidence-based policymaking; it’s a cynical misuse of survivors’ stories to push a political agenda.

“What makes this sleight-of-hand so shameful is that the reports contain important recommendations for local governments, law enforcement officers, hospitals and other agencies. The Governor seems unconcerned about these actual recommendations and treats the report as a tool for eviscerating our discovery laws and hiding police misconduct.

“Rather than pushing for an effective repeal of the statute, we once again urge the Governor to consider thoughtful, targeted proposals that would strengthen discovery laws and improve the criminal legal system for all New Yorkers. These include:

- legislation to grant prosecutors direct access to police databases—a measure District Attorneys support, acknowledging the New York City Police Department’s intransigence in assisting their offices with securing evidence;
- continued funding for District Attorney offices to hire staff and implement technological systems, an effort that New York City prosecutors have not yet fully implemented despite the reform taking effect five years ago;
- a recently introduced bill that would codify a New York State Court of Appeals ruling, which establishes clear standards for how judges assess prosecutors’ efforts to meet discovery obligations.

“As budget negotiations continue, we still have confidence in our legislative leaders to stand firm and prioritize the needs of all New Yorkers.”

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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](http://www.legalaidnyc.org)*