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

***Legal Aid Statement on Proposed Federal Cuts Threatening New Yorkers’
Health, Housing, and Stability***

(NEW YORK, NY) — The Legal Aid Society issued the following statement in response to a proposed federal budget reconciliation bill currently under consideration in Congress that would slash funding for Medicaid, public housing, and rental assistance programs:

“As we speak, Congress is considering a budget proposal that would devastate Medicaid, gut rental assistance, and further dismantle the public housing system, putting the health and stability of millions of New Yorkers at risk.

“If enacted, this bill would cause over one million New Yorkers to lose access to affordable health care. Medicaid is not a luxury—it is a lifeline. Every day, we work with New Yorkers who rely on it to manage chronic illnesses, go to work, attend school, and care for their families. Stripping that support will not only harm low-income individuals, but destabilize hospitals, overburden emergency services, and reduce access to care for everyone.

“At the same time, this proposed budget, pushed by the Trump Administration, would slash funding for public housing and eliminate critical rental assistance programs. That includes deep cuts to Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8), Homeless Assistance Grants, and public housing funding itself, further straining a housing system already at its breaking point. These cuts would jeopardize the housing of tens of thousands of families, seniors, and people with disabilities, while worsening the city’s homelessness crisis.

Let’s be clear:

- **This is not about rooting out “fraud”**—actual fraud in the Medicaid program is minimal, and the massive cuts proposed do nothing to ensure the integrity of the program
- **This is not about protecting Medicaid resources**—94% of Medicaid recipients already work or qualify for exemptions from work requirements.
- **And this is not only about Medicaid**—these cuts would destabilize the entire health care system, making care more expensive (or inaccessible) for everyone and threatening the viability of hospitals and the livelihoods of the hardworking New Yorkers who make up our health care workforce.

“At a time when New York City is already grappling with rising housing costs, record shelter populations, and a public health system still recovering from the pandemic, this budget threatens to unravel what remains of our safety net. We cannot ‘balance budgets’ by sacrificing the health and homes of vulnerable people.

“We call on our members of the U.S. House and U.S. Senate to reject this reckless proposal and defend the essential programs that keep our communities safe, healthy, and housed.”

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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