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

Legal Aid Lauds NY State Legislature for Passing Legislation to Provide Youth in Foster Care With Luggage

Attorneys, Advocates Call on Governor Hochul to Immediately Sign Critical Bill into Law

(ALBANY, NY) – The Legal Aid Society released the following statement in response to the New York State Legislature passing a [bill](#) to require the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) to provide luggage to youth in foster care, and called on Governor Kathy Hochul to sign the legislation into law without delay:

“We laud the New York State Legislature for passing this common-sense legislation to provide young New Yorkers in foster care with durable, non-disposable luggage to safely and securely transport their belongings during their often frequent transitions between housing placements.

“Currently, there are roughly [13,000 children](#) in New York’s foster care system, and they experience about 23,000 housing transitions per year. Each child, on average, lives in three different placements while under the government’s care.

“The frequent transitions and lack of access to durable luggage — with many forced to use trash bags or other precarious containers — has resulted in many children being forced to leave behind or throw away their belongings upon moving to another placement.

“This bill, if enacted, would ensure that children and youth are treated with the humanity and dignity they deserve when they are removed from their families, experience changes in foster care placements, go to college, transition to independence, or need to transport their belongings for any other reason.

“We thank bill sponsors Senator Jabari Brisport and Assembly Member Andrew Hevesi for championing this critical legislation, and urge Governor Hochul to sign it into law without delay.”

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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