



May 6, 2025

Contact:

Redmond Haskins

[Rhaskins@legal-aid.org](mailto:Rhaskins@legal-aid.org)

929.441.2384

**\*\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\*\***

***Statewide Coalition of New Yorkers Impacted by the State's Warehousing of People with Mental Health and Substance Use Issues to Demand Passage of the Treatment Court Expansion Act***

*TCEA is necessary to relieve burdens on the mental health and criminal justice systems*

*TCEA is a fiscally responsible measure that will improve public safety*

**(ALBANY, NY) - Elected officials, healthcare professionals, advocates, academics, faith leaders, attorneys, individuals directly impacted by the State's warehousing of people with mental health and substance use issues** will hold a press conference calling for the immediate passage of the Treatment Court Expansion Act (S.4547/A.4869) on Wednesday, May 7, 2025 at 12:00 PM on the Million Dollar Staircase in the State Capitol.

**Background:** New York's mental health system is broken. Despite Governor Hochul's historic investments, the state still fails to provide meaningful care for those in deepest crisis. Too often, prisons and jails stand in for treatment. As a result, people released from incarceration are trapped in a revolving door of institutions, without the support they need to heal and thrive.

In light of recent wildcat strikes, corrections officers are stretched thin and lack the resources—and training—to address complex mental health needs. It is unfair to expect them to do so.

The Treatment Court Expansion Act would connect individuals to appropriate services when deemed suitable by a judge. This legislation has been proven to reduce recidivism and will save the state and taxpayers millions of dollars.

For safer communities, a stronger mental health system, and a more cost-effective criminal justice system, we must pass this legislation.

**Who:** Assembly Member Phara Souffrant Forrest, Senator Nathalia Fernandez, Senator Samra Brouk, along with other elected officials, healthcare professionals, advocates, academics, faith leaders, attorneys, and individuals directly impacted by the state's warehousing of people with mental health and substance use issues.

**When:** Wednesday, May 7, 2025 at 12:00 PM

**Where:** Million Dollar Staircase in the State Capitol

**Media:** Interviews prior to rally upon request

###