

June 11, 2025

Contact:

Redmond Haskins
rhaskins@legal-aid.org
929.441.2384

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

Legal Aid Lauds Senate Passage of Legislation to Ensure Medically Necessary Dental Care to Seniors Under New York's Medicaid Program

(ALBANY, NY) - The Legal Aid Society issued the following statement in response to the New York State Senate passing [legislation](#) to ensure that medically necessary dental care, particularly as it applies to seniors, is covered, by statute, under New York State's Medicaid program:

"We applaud the New York State Senate for passing S3566, legislation to ensure that low-income New Yorkers have access to medically necessary dental care under Medicaid, including implants, replacement prosthetics, crowns, and root canals.

"For too long, Medicaid coverage has favored tooth extractions over restorative procedures, effectively forcing people — many of them elders — to live without basic dental function or dignity, adversely impacting their nutrition, communication, self-esteem, and overall health.

"Importantly, this bill is budget neutral. It does not impose any new costs on the taxpayers but instead codifies recent changes already adopted in a federal settlement, which Legal Aid secured in 2023, making them permanent and enforceable under the law. This is a smart, compassionate, and fiscally responsible step forward.

"The Legal Aid Society applauds Senator Cordell Cleare for her prime sponsorship, and we urge the Assembly to swiftly pass this legislation and send it to the Governor's desk without delay."

###

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