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

Statement on Supreme Court Decision to Limit Nationwide Injunctions in Birthright Citizenship Case

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society released the following statement in response to the U.S. Supreme Court [ruling](#) today, in the context of a legal challenge to the Trump Administration’s [Executive Order](#) declaring that the children of undocumented parents are not entitled to automatic citizenship, that federal district or circuit court judges do not have the authority to issue nationwide injunctions:

“Today’s ruling has two significant and harmful effects.

“First, it opens the door to allowing the Trump Administration to deny U.S. citizenship to children born in the United States. Birthright citizenship is enshrined in the Constitution, and multiple lower courts have agreed that the Executive Order is in stark violation of the 14th Amendment. If allowed to take effect, this Executive Order will harm thousands of immigrant New Yorkers and their families.

“Second, and more broadly, today’s ruling bans nationwide injunctions by federal district or circuit court judges. In so doing, it reaches far beyond the narrow legal issue of birthright citizenship. As Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson rightly notes in her dissent, the heart of the matter is whether any federal court, other than the Supreme Court, can order the Executive to follow the law. Alarmingly, the Supreme Court decided no.

“The Trump Administration is now free to pick and choose which laws – if any – it will abide by, limited only by scattershot lower court orders with limited reach, or by the occasional class action injunction.

“The Legal Aid Society has long sought to protect the people we serve through injunctions, such as the [nationwide injunction](#) we obtained in 2019 blocking the first Trump Administration’s harmful public charge rule, the [district-wide injunction](#) we obtained earlier this year protecting individuals targeted by the Alien Enemies Act, and the [statewide injunction](#) we obtained in 2018 protecting minor children forcibly separated from their parents. Injunctions are vitally important tools for holding the government accountable.

“We strongly condemn today’s ruling and will continue to fight each and every day for the rights of all New Yorkers, regardless of immigration status. And we will continue to hold the Executive accountable when it violates the law, using every legal tool at our disposal.”

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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 almost 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. <https://www.legallaidnyc.org>

