

September 19, 2025

Contact:

Press@legal-aid.org

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

***Legal Aid Decries DOCCS Plan to Undermine HALT, Landmark Legislation
Limiting Solitary Confinement in Prisons and Jails***

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society released the following statement in response to a plan from the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) to revise the [Humane Alternatives to Long-Term Solitary Confinement \(HALT\) Act](#), a landmark human rights law that limits the use of solitary confinement in prisons and jails throughout New York State:

“It’s little surprise that the culmination of closed-door talks driven largely by the corrections union is a set of recommendations to give officers sweeping new discretion to use solitary more often and for less serious infractions.

“The Legislature passed HALT precisely because solitary is dangerous: it inflicts lasting mental and physical harm, fuels violence, and makes prisons less safe. From the very start, DOCCS has resisted complying with HALT, and these proposals reflect yet another attempt to sidestep the Legislature’s reasoned judgment that solitary must be strictly limited in New York.

“This effort to undermine HALT’s crucial and hard-won limits on solitary should be rejected.”

###

The Legal Aid Society is a nonprofit organization that 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