

December 10, 2025

Contact:

Press@legal-aid.org

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

***Legal Aid Urges Governor Hochul to Sign Foster Care Luggage Bill as soon as
Legislature Sends Bill to Her Desk***

***Legislation Would Require the State to Provide Durable, Non-Disposable
Luggage to Youth in Foster Care During Housing Transitions***

(ALBANY, NY) – The Legal Aid Society released the following statement as the New York State Legislature transmitted to Governor Kathy Hochul for consideration a [bill](#) that would require the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) to provide durable luggage to youth in foster care:

“Providing young New Yorkers in foster care with durable, non-disposable luggage is a common-sense step toward ensuring they can safely and securely transport their belongings during frequent transitions between housing placements.

“Currently, there are roughly 13,000 children in New York’s foster care system, and they experience approximately 23,000 housing transitions each year. On average, each child lives in three different placements while under the government’s care.

“These frequent transitions — combined with the lack of access to durable luggage, with many youth forced to use trash bags or other inadequate containers — cause children to lose or discard their belongings during moves.

“If enacted, this bill would help ensure that children and young adults 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 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