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

***Statement on Governor Hochul Signing Watered-Down Prison Reform
Legislative Package***

(ALBANY, NY) — **The Legal Aid Society** issued the following statement in response to Governor Kathy Hochul signing a [prison reform legislative package](#):

“As we stated when the Legislature passed this package earlier this year, Albany failed to meet the moment by refusing to enact the decarceration measures necessary to meaningfully reduce the prison population—including Fair and Timely Parole, Elder Parole, the Earned Time Act, and the Second Look Act. In the wake of the brutal killings of Robert Brooks and Messiah Nantwi, and amid the ongoing suffering endured by so many incarcerated New Yorkers forced to survive in dangerous and degrading conditions, that failure is both glaring and inexcusable.

“New Yorkers deserve bold, transformative action, beginning with policies that safely release people from prison, not incremental oversight-only change that leaves the most urgent injustices unaddressed. This is not the change that is needed. Next session, Albany must move beyond watered-down compromises and finally advance the long-stalled reforms that have earned broad public support and are essential to creating a safer, more humane correctional system.

“The Legal Aid Society stands ready to work with lawmakers who are committed to wholesale reform that reduces the jail population while ensuring that the well-being and constitutional rights of those who remain incarcerated are prioritized above all else.”

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The Legal Aid Society is a nonprofit law firm 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 the people we serve and helps improve our communities.

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