

December 21, 2025

Contact:

Press@legal-aid.org

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

Statement on Governor Hochul Signing the Coerced Debt Right of Action Act into Law

(ALBANY, NY) — The Legal Aid Society released the following statement in response to Governor Kathy Hochul signing the [Coerced Debt Right of Action Act](#) into law, legislation that establishes a legal process to contest debts incurred through coercion and strengthens consumer protections for New Yorkers affected by economic abuse.

“The Legal Aid Society applauds Governor Kathy Hochul for signing this historic legislation into law, as well as bill sponsors Senator Cordell Cleare and Assembly Member Linda Rosenthal for their championship. The Coerced Debt Right of Action Act helps level the playing field between banks and creditors and individuals trapped under the weight of coerced debt. This critical law is a meaningful step toward addressing the long-lasting impacts of economic abuse and marks an important victory for survivors across New York.

“For too long, the legal system and the financial industry have placed barriers in front of domestic violence survivors and others experiencing economic abuse, ignoring the reality that many are coerced into taking on debt that damages their credit and limits their ability to regain stability and move forward. By creating a clear legal path to challenge and invalidate debts incurred through coercion, this law provides essential protections and a real opportunity for survivors to rebuild their financial lives.

“At a time when consumer protections are being rolled back at the federal level and when women, LGBTQ+ individuals, and other communities disproportionately impacted by coerced debt face increasing hostility, New York is leading with fairness and common sense by strengthening protections for survivors and advancing economic justice.”

###

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.

www.legalaidnyc.org