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

Legal Aid Lauds Legislature for Passing Legislation to Ensure Medically Necessary Dental Care for Medicaid Recipients

(ALBANY, NY) – **The Legal Aid Society** issued the following statement in response to the New York State Legislature passing legislation to ensure that medically necessary dental care is covered by statute under New York State’s Medicaid program:

“We applaud the New York State Legislature for passing [S3566/A1931](#), legislation that ensures low-income New Yorkers have access to medically necessary dental care under Medicaid, including implants, replacement dentures, crowns, and root canals.

“For too long, Medicaid coverage has favored tooth extractions over restorative procedures, effectively forcing people to live without basic dental function or dignity, adversely impacting their nutrition, communication, self-esteem, and overall health.

“Importantly, this bill is budget neutral. It does not impose any new costs on taxpayers but instead codifies recent changes already adopted pursuant to a [federal settlement](#) that Legal Aid secured in 2023, making those protections permanent and enforceable under state law. This is a smart, compassionate, and fiscally responsible step forward.

“The Legal Aid Society applauds Senator Cleare and Assembly Member Paulin for their leadership and sponsorship of this legislation, as well as the members of both houses who voted to advance this critical reform.

“We now urge Governor Hochul to sign this legislation into law so that medically necessary dental care remains accessible to New Yorkers who rely on Medicaid and can continue to live healthier, more dignified lives.”

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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 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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