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

Legal Aid Society Commends Legislature for Passing Critical Protections for Pregnant and Postpartum People in Custody, Urges Governor Hochul to Sign Bill

Legislation Expands Protections for Pregnant People in Custody, During Medical Care and Police Interrogations

(ALBANY, NY) — The Legal Aid Society issued the following statement in response to the New York State Legislature fully passing [S2667C/A1670B](#), landmark legislation that strengthens protections for pregnant and postpartum New Yorkers in correctional facilities and police custody by sharply restricting the use of restraints and force during pregnancy, labor, postpartum recovery, and pregnancy-related medical care:

“No pregnant New Yorker should be subjected to degrading, dangerous, and medically unnecessary restraints while seeking medical care, recovering from a pregnancy outcome, or interacting with law enforcement. No person should have to endure the trauma of being shackled while pregnant, in labor, recovering from childbirth, or experiencing a miscarriage or other pregnancy outcome. The need for these reforms has been made painfully clear by incidents across New York, including the widely reported case of the pregnant woman who was handcuffed and gave birth while appearing in Brooklyn Criminal Court.

“This legislation reflects both medical consensus and basic human dignity. By prohibiting restraints during labor and pregnancy-related medical care, restricting the use of force against pregnant and postpartum incarcerated people, and extending protections to pregnant individuals in police custody, the Legislature has taken an important step toward ensuring that pregnant and postpartum New Yorkers are treated with humanity, respect, and care. Public safety and human dignity are not mutually exclusive, and restraints should be used only in the rarest and most extraordinary circumstances.

“The Legal Aid Society thanks Assembly Member Linda Rosenthal and Senator Julia Salazar for sponsoring this critical legislation, and urges Governor Kathy Hochul to sign this legislation without delay and reaffirm New York's commitment to protecting the health, safety, dignity, and rights of pregnant and postpartum people.”

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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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