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*****For Immediate Release*****

As Legislators Return to Albany, Brooklyn Defenders Urges No Changes to New York's Bail and Discovery Laws

(BROOKLYN, NY) – Brooklyn Defender Services released the following statement urging lawmakers to reject changes to New York's bail and discovery laws amid continuing budget negotiations:

“The New York State budget is officially two weeks past due, as Governor Hochul continues to push for changes to our state's bail laws that will erode judicial accountability and send more New Yorkers to dangerous and deadly jails.

And last week, reports emerged that the governor, alongside New York District Attorneys, is also attempting to gut New York's discovery laws, threatening to send us back to the era of the ‘Blindfold Law’ when people were coerced to plead guilty without access to evidence in their cases, fueling mass incarceration and wrongful convictions.

These unjust proposals will not make New Yorkers safer - we know the safest communities have the most resources, not the most incarceration. Instead they will erode police, prosecutorial, and judicial accountability and send more New Yorkers to languish in jails longer. As legislators return to Albany for yet another week of budget negotiations, we urge them to stand strong against these attempts to upend the law.”

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Brooklyn Defender Services is a public defense office whose mission is to provide outstanding representation and advocacy free of cost to people facing loss of freedom, family separation and other serious legal harms. www.bds.org