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PLEASE SUPPORT S.6341B and A.6202C

- Senator DeFrancisco (S.6341B) and Assembly Member Fahy (A.6202C) have introduced legislation that would provide counties with significant mandate relief while also increasing the quality of indigent defense services. These bills are supported by the New York State Association of Counties.
- Background:
 - In 2015 New York State settled the *Hurrell-Harring* lawsuit, agreeing to provide State funding to implement significant improvements in the five settlement counties (Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Suffolk and Washington), including caseload caps.
 - This has resulted in a significant disparity in State funding provided to the five settlement counties, and the remaining 57 counties: “The Forgotten 57”.
 - This has resulted in a dual justice system in New York State – the start of a well-funded system in five settlement counties, and a poorly funded system in the remaining 57 counties.
 - Counties cannot bear the cost of improving defense services. The “tax cap” prevents counties from making significant improvements in indigent defense.

S.6341B and A.6202C would provide mandate relief to the counties by having the State gradually assume all of the costs of indigent defense. The Bills would also require the State to fund improvements in indigent defense, such as caseload caps, funding counsel at first appearance, and quality improvement.

CDANY urges you to please support these bills and sign on as a co-sponsor to either S.6341B or A.6202C.