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PRESS RELEASE

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The Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus celebrates the 49th Anniversary of Voting Rights Act

Today, the Chairwoman of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus, Representative Katrina R. Jackson, the Executive Board, and its Members celebrate the 49th Anniversary of the Voting Rights act signed in 1965 by President Lyndon B. Johnson and Members of Congress. **Rep. Katrina R. Jackson stated**, "The Voting Rights Act is one of the key pieces of Legislation that gave birth to the validity of America's Democratic Process. We salute and honor those who made sacrifices, some who gave their lives, so that Americans everywhere could exercise their right to vote."

The Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus agrees with Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner's statement, "The Voting Rights Act of 1965 is one of the most important pieces of legislation and is vital to our commitment as a nation to never permit racial prejudices in our electoral process." The Voting Rights Act of 1965 guaranteed the right to vote for many whom had been disenfranchised before the passage of this act by eliminating literacy tests and other obstacles that were used to disenfranchise persons of color.

The Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus will never cease fighting for the right of all Louisianans to participate in our democracy. We will be vigilant to deter any attempts to suppress the vote by raising new barriers or dismantling vital protections from happening in our state, and we will encourage our national elected officials to do so as well. The Supreme Court's decision on the Voting Rights Act must not go unanswered. We are thankful to the leadership of Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi as she urges Congress to act swiftly to pass a renewed, revised, and strengthened Voting Rights Act that will ensure every citizen's right to vote and that every vote is cast is counted."

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Established in 1977, the primary purpose of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus is to raise the quality of life for those underrepresented, the indigent and working people through legislation, education and economic development.