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May 17, 2019



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**La. Legislative Black Caucus' Statement on the 65th Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka**

*Baton Rouge, LA – Chairman Randal L. Gaines issued this statement in honor of the 65th Anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court decision in Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka-May 17, 1954:*

With the extraordinary leadership of our thirty-four (34) members of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus (LLBC), we will continue the fight started sixty-five (65) years ago when the Supreme Court unlocked the doors of opportunity, and unanimously declared in Brown v. Board of Education that 'the doctrine of separate but equal has no place' in our nation's public schools. Despite great progress in our fight to honor the spirit of one of the most groundbreaking court decisions, we continue to struggle to overcome generations of systemic injustice and inequality, combatting new threats to the promise of a free and quality public education for all.

Chairman Randal L. Gaines stated, "As we work to fully close the opportunity gap, it is imperative that we first close the education gap that disproportionately impacts students of color and low-income families. The LLBC understands that core civil rights protections in our public schools were designed to increase diversity and improve student outcomes, so we will continue to fight on these fronts".

The LLBC will continue to battle today's segregation and work to diminish inequities in the Louisiana education system working as one in order to combat assaults on public education. We are committed to advancing legislation that strengthens our schools, our educators and our communities.

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