



# NEWS RELEASE

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## LOUISIANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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### **Shining moment to show our independence**

**BATON ROUGE** – Speaker Chuck Kleckley today stepped up to the microphone to address the entire House of Representatives to say, “I’ve been in several meetings in the last couple of days to discuss the budget process and what’s going on here in the house. I have been very, very encouraged. It has been very positive. It has been very upbeat.”

He also said, “With the hard work of several members from both parties – a very broad bi-partisan effort - I feel very comfortable that by Monday at the latest, there will be a clearly defined plan in place to help resolve many of these challenges that we are having with our budget; that we have had for the last six years.”

In preparation for next week’s House debate on HB 1, Members and staff have been working hard on amendments and proposals.

“We have got to find a way to resolve these challenges,” Kleckley said. “We have got to find a way to resolve these budget deficits,” he said.

Kleckley asked the house to show its independence and not to commit to anyone to reject a plan that hasn’t been put forth yet. “These are monumental challenges that we have all got to look at,” he said, “and as a body have got to come up with a solution. This is a clear and shining moment for the House of Representatives to show our independence.”

The speaker appealed to Members with a request: “I’m asking you as your leader, as your Speaker of the House. Let’s sit tight. Let’s give this plan an opportunity for everybody to look at before you make a decision, I think that’s an important part; that is a key to passing a responsible and reasonable budget for the state of Louisiana and for the House of Representatives.”

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