

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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LOUISIANA LEGISLATIVE LEADERS URGE CITIZENS
TO SUPPORT RED CROSS HURRICANE RELIEF EFFORTS

ENCOURAGE BLOOD DONATIONS & MONETARY DONATIONS
TO AID HURRICANE SANDY VICTIMS

Senate President John A. Alario, Jr. and House Speaker Chuck Kleckley are urging their fellow legislators and citizens across the state to support on-going American Red Cross hurricane relief efforts. The Red Cross is calling for immediate blood and platelet donations as well as monetary assistance for its storm response efforts. Sandy forced the cancellation of hundreds of blood drives in 13 states and the District of Columbia, resulting in a shortfall of nearly 11,000 units of blood and platelets thus far.

"We applaud the legislature for their efforts to support the American Red Cross as we respond to those in the Northeast who are suffering," Kay Wilkins, CEO of the Southeast Louisiana Chapter of the American Red Cross, said. "We in Louisiana can't help but be drawn back to Isaac, Gustav, Ike, Rita and Katrina. What state can better understand what the people are experiencing? We are proud of our state senators and representatives for their compassion and leadership."

President Alario and Speaker Kleckley are sponsoring a blood drive at the Louisiana State Capitol. The details for the blood drive are still being finalized. Legislators, state employees and citizens are encouraged to join the effort aimed at not only aiding storm victims, but also ensuring an available national blood supply. The legislative leaders are also urging their colleagues and citizens across the state to do what they can to financially assist the relief efforts.

"It is appropriate for the state of Louisiana to join in the Hurricane Sandy relief effort by assisting the people of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic region who so graciously assisted us during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita as well as other storms," Speaker Kleckley said. "What better way to help than for us to ask each member of the legislature to make a donation to the American Red Cross."

President Alario kicked off the cooperative fund-raising effort with a \$1,000 donation and encouraged his fellow senators to chip in as well.

"Concerned citizens across the nation have repeatedly been there for us. This is our opportunity to be there for them," President Alario said. "We need to show those impacted by Sandy not only our Southern generosity, but also our appreciation for their plight."

To learn more about how you can get involved in the American Red Cross Hurricane Sandy relief efforts, go to www.redcross.org . To find out how you can donate blood in your area go to www.bloodhero.com .

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