

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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LOUISIANAS LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS COMMUNITY OUTREACH TOUR FINDINGS

The Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus toured the state from August 3rd – 6th during the 2006 Community Outreach Tour. The theme for this year's tour was: *Addressing the Needs of Individuals and Planting the Seeds for a Secure Future*. The tour's focus included providing legislative updates and hearing feedback from citizens throughout the state. "All of our stops were well attended, and constituents were prepared with definite questions and concerns" said Representative Cedric Richmond, Chair of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus.

During the tour the Caucus listened as the citizens of Louisiana poured out their concerns. Major topics addressed in the town hall meetings were: education, health and welfare, insurance, criminal justice and increasing minority participation in local government. More specifically, many of citizens echoed sentiments on the following:

Education

- Pay raises for teachers and support staff
- Retention of children in school for 12 years
- Increase the drop out age of students in school

- Implement programs to deter students from dropping out
- Implement programs for elementary and middle school students to prepare them for college
- Revamp reporting laws for teachers and support staff on sexual abuse.

Health and Welfare

- Provide assistance for the poor, working and elderly with affordable healthcare
- Limit the power of the nursing home industry
- Housing in Orleans Parish – the LRA Road Home Plan

Insurance

- Insurance companies providing hail and wind damage

Labor

- Raise and increase the minimum wage for all people

Criminal Justice

- Reform of the criminal justice system
- Enforcement of laws for child predators
- Prevention measure to deter molesters from preying on children
- Tougher laws on child sex crimes

Information gathered from the tour will help the Caucus to identify issues to create an agenda for the upcoming regular sessions. The Caucus is thankful of all who participated in the tour. For additional information, please visit the LLBC's website at llbc.louisiana.gov.