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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus Chairwoman State Representative Patricia H. Smith, along with the membership, hailed today's decision by Judge Tim Kelly who ruled that the private school voucher program created by Governor Bobby Jindal is unconstitutional. The La. Legislative Black Caucus, along with other legislators, fought an uphill battle against the voucher program but it was not enough to thwart the opposition, holding that the alleged reform program was unconstitutional throughout the legislative session. In a 39- page ruling Judge Kelly declared, "The MFP was set up for students attending public elementary and secondary schools and was never meant to be diverted to private educational providers."

"While the Caucus' membership appreciates and have compassion for parents of the children who will be affected by this ruling, we want them to know that we are committed to making sure their children and all children in the traditional public school receive a quality, equitable, public education throughout the state of Louisiana," said Chairwoman Smith shortly after the ruling.

"The Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus membership is dedicated to true education reform in Louisiana."

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Founded in 1977, the primary purpose of the LLBC is to raise the quality of life for African Americans, the indigent and working people, through legislation, education and economic development.