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POST OFFICE BOX 44003  
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70804  
(225) 342-7342  
FAX: (225) 342-0364  
email: caucusb@legis.la.gov  
www.llbc.louisiana.gov

**PRESS STATEMENT**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**For More Information Contact**

Executive Director: Cynthia Buggage  
(225) 342-7342 Office  
(225) 376-5940 Fax

La. Legislative Black Caucus Chairwoman, State Rep. Katrina Jackson (D-Monroe) Issues Statement on Black History Month

"As we celebrate Black History Month, the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus reiterates its pledge to serve as the rock for Louisiana's citizens who often feel abandoned." We affirm our continued dedication to being the, "conscience of the legislature and to uphold the traditions of leadership within the African American community that guide us towards equality, justice and the continual shaping of our vast history of this great state."

Each February, Americans collectively honor the contributions, achievements, and strength of African Americans who marched, fought, struggled, endured, sacrificed and strived to have a better community, to ensure that the state, nation and ultimately, the world, would be a better place. We salute those individuals who paved the way that affords us the opportunities of today.

As we commemorate the sesquicentennial of when a president issued the Emancipation Proclamation and declared an enslaved people, "...Then, thenceforward, and forever free," we will not grow weary of our mission. In addition, we recall the march fifty years ago when a preacher told a nation of his incredible dream and first implored us to embrace the "fierce urgency of now". As successors to the dream, we encourage everyone to embrace that same urgency.

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