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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 RELEASE**

**June 19, 2015**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Chairwoman: Representative Katrina Jackson  
Executive Director: Cynthia Buggage  
(225) 342-7342 Office • (225) 376-5940 Fax

### **LLBC Statement on the 150th Juneteenth Celebration**

**Baton Rouge, Louisiana.** The Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus (LLBC) commemorates the historical significance of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Juneteenth.

June 19<sup>th</sup> is recognized as one of the most significant dates in U.S. history, when federal officials arrived in Galveston, Texas, to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation and liberated all enslaved African Americans from the horrors of slavery. This monumental event set forth winds of change that have flowed throughout the centuries. Since then, African Americans have made tremendous strides in all sectors of life -- economically, politically, socially and educationally. We celebrate these contributions each and every day.

As we honor those who endured the torments of slavery and were blessed to see its defeat, all must remember that the fight for equality is not done. Many still struggle for racial equality, even 150 years removed from the abolition of slavery.

“In the wake of this week’s events in South Carolina, and of all the tragedies involving the police and African Americans that have been plaguing our nation, it is imperative that we do not become complacent,” said State Rep. Katrina R. Jackson, chair of the LLBC. “It is our continued mission both within the Caucus and within our own communities to make our voices heard and represent the interests of the citizens of Louisiana who so graciously elected us to serve.”

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*Established in 1977, the primary purpose of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus is to raise the quality of life for those underrepresented, the indigent and working people through legislation, education and economic development.*