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**PRESS STATEMENT**

April 27, 2021

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Chairman: Representative Edward C. "Ted" James, II  
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**The Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus Stands in  
Opposition Against HB564**

**Baton Rouge, Louisiana.** The Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus stands in opposition against HB564, which provides relative to training with respect to certain concepts related to race and sex in elementary and secondary schools and postsecondary education institutions.

Since its inception in 1977, the Black Caucus's mission has been to raise the quality of life for African Americans, the indigent and working people through legislation, education, and economic development. We do this by implementing and promoting policies which allow ALL citizens fair and open access to educational and economic advancement opportunities. HB564 intentionally hinders the type of open, fair, authentic and truthful dialogue that is critical to our educational institutions that are meant to teach. To train; To prepare; and To provide our educators with professional development that is meaningful and gets to the heart of issues that impact every individual through the world that we live in. Our schools are meant to cultivate the critical thinking skills that our young people need to make well-informed decisions about their lives and their future. How can they do this if bills that are passed through the sacred halls of this legislature body that purposefully silence the "voices" of our students?

Our educators deserve better. Our students deserve better. Our communities deserve better. We, the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus, are dedicated to amplifying community "voices" – for the betterment of us all.

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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.*