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PRESS STATEMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus Calls for the Removal of Education Committee Chairman - "There was Nothing Good About Slavery"

Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Black Caucus Asks for Removal of House Education Chairman After an explosive meeting of the House Education Committee regarding HB 564, Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus Chairman, is requesting the removal of Representative Ray Garofalo as Chairman of the House Education Committee. Rep. Garofalo, who authored HB 564, received much scrutiny for his defense of the bill, which attempts to ban schools and colleges from teaching "divisive concepts", or using material that suggests the United States is racist or sexist.

Representative Edward C. "Ted" James, II, Chairman of the LLBC, explains that HB 564 in itself includes divisive, insensitive and racist elements and that the impression was given that the bill would not see a hearing in committee after the urging of leadership and colleagues. However, the bill did see debate in committee, leading to comments by Garofalo stating that there were 'good...' components of slavery "An apology is not enough," James stated. "The defense of systemic racism throughout our country is unarguably an issue, and the language of this proposal alone is enough to offend those of us working toward change."

HB 564 received a 7-7 vote in committee, and was eventually shelved by Garofalo, who has stated that he does plan to reintroduce the bill at a later time.

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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.