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## PRESS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## LLBC Joins the Nation in Prayer for the Shooting Massacre in Charleston, SC

**Baton Rouge, Louisiana.** The Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus and its Chairwoman, State Representative Katrina Jackson extends its condolences and deepest sorrow to the families of the 9 individuals that loss their lives in the tragic mass shooting at "Mother Emmanuel" African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church in Charleston, South Carolina. Our nation and communities are devastated by another horrific hate crime perpetuated on innocent individuals while attending a weekly Bible study. Among the victims were the church's politically active state Senator and Pastor, Rev. Clementa Pinckney and his cousin, state Senator Kent Williams.

**Chairwoman Jackson**, has reached out to the Presiding Bishop of the AME District 8 church and others to collectively come together as a unified body in prayer and support for the loss of lives in this tragic shooting. Jackson states, **"We must not respond to acts of hate with hate but reciprocate with love. Love drives out hate and we must continue to show love, while remaining vigilant in our efforts as a nation and community to stop the senseless acts of violence and hate crimes. At a time of so many foreign threats and acts of terrorism directed toward our nation, it is vitally important that we remain united in love for the strength of our Nation and rest on this principle. America is strong because we remain united. Our prayers are with the victims' families and community. We will not allow the action of one confused individual to dictate our response. However, we will stand in prayer and act based on a response filled with love."**

The LLBC will continue to be diligent in our efforts to fight for equality and justice of such horrendous and tragic events that continue to plague our communities and nation. On behalf of the LLBC, our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the victims and the Mother Emmanuel congregation!

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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.*