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On yesterday the Louisiana House of Representatives voted 65 yeas and 31 nays and passed HB71 by Representative Thomas Carmody.

**Legislation that professes to "Protect Public Military Memorials"**

But in reality this bill is nothing but a Trojan horse designed to supercede the decision making authority of local municipalities regarding use of public space.

What the passage of HB71 really revealed was that there is still present, in Louisiana, a deep rooted belief in White Supremacy and a desire to revere those who fought against the United States of American in the American Civil War.

The Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus is offended and deeply wounded by the House's passage of this legislation. We were and are wounded because the bill attempts to rewrite history by honoring those who not only rebelled against the United States but who fought to maintain man's greatest inhumanity to man. The system of slavery where our ancestors were considered property, less than human, women raped and abused, men slaughtered at will, and system's implemented to facilitate cultural genocide.

We believe that yesterday's vote was a failure of legislative leadership adding fuel to the fire regarding this proven divisive issue. We should be providing leadership which unite the people of Louisiana and laboring to solve the challenges facing our state.

We believe as legislators, we are here to address issues that have our citizens lagging behind the rest of the Nation in far too many areas and we should be addressing these quality of life issues for our citizens which include:

1. Our looming Budget Challenge
2. Quality Education
3. Equal Pay for Women
4. A Living Wage for Our Workers
5. Criminal Justice Reform
6. Health Care

And the list goes on.....

We believe that there is no reason we cannot be first in respecting each other, in how we treat each other, and how we rise above images of war, hate, slavery, and rebellion against the places we ALL say we love:

**The United States of America and the Great State of Louisiana.**

As this bill moves through the legislative process we are encouraging the Senators of this legislative body and

our Governor to stop this instrument of division – by not further dividing our State and our legislature. Terminate this legislation and end any further division potential of this legislation for our State and legislature.

**Our children and all Louisiana citizens are depending on us not to divide but to unite our great state of Louisiana.**