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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The LLBC Mourns the Passing of the Legendary "Queen of Soul" Aretha Franklin

Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus (LLBC), mourns the passing of legendary singer and song writer Aretha Franklin. Born in Memphis, Tennessee March 25, 1942 – Aretha Louise Franklin would go on to become one of the world's greatest singers of all time. During her spanning and timeless singing career she was dubbed as the "Queen of Soul" in 1967.

In addition, to the Queen of Soul's musical accolades during the 1960s at the peak of the Civil Rights Movement her making of singer Otis Redding's song RESPECT became the anthem for African Americans. At the time when the song came out in 1967 Franklin, "had no idea that the song would become a rallying cry for African Americans, women and anyone else who felt marginalized because of what they looked like or who they loved." This particular song which is one of many continues to be powerful and has even become a symbol in the #metoomovement.

LLBC Chairman, State Representative Randal Gaines says, that on behalf of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus we pay tribute to the many notable contributions of legendary icon singer/songwriter "Queen of Soul" – Ms. Aretha Franklin. She will truly be missed but remembered for her musical talents and contribution(s) to the Civil Rights Movement."

We encourage everyone to keep the Franklin family in your prayers during this difficult 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.