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**Statewide Elected Officials Support Financial Disclosure**

**Baton Rouge, LA (May 28, 2007) – *LA Ethics 1***, a 50-organization coalition pushing governmental ethics reforms, announced today that several statewide elected officials support the financial disclosure amendment to HB 730 by Representative Michael Jackson (D-Baton Rouge) that would require them to disclose their financial interests on an annual basis. The amendment would require all statewide elected officials to file an annual financial disclosure form similar to the one currently required for the Governor.

Officials supporting the amendment include Secretary of State Jay Dardenne, Commissioner of Insurance Jim Donelon, State Treasurer John Kennedy, and Lieutenant Governor Mitch Landrieu.

HB 730 by Representatives Jackson, Cazayoux, and LaFleur, is a key component of the ***LA Ethics 1*** package of legislation which is aimed at beginning to position Louisiana as a national leader in governmental ethics laws and enforcement. The bill, originally drafted to require legislators to disclose their sources of income, assets, and liabilities in broad ranges, was amended in the House and Governmental Affairs Committee last Tuesday to additionally require all statewide elected officials to disclose their income using the form currently required for the Governor. ***LA Ethics 1*** considers disclosure by statewide elected officials important to transparency in government, and had planned to include the provision in future legislation.

Secretary of State Jay Dardenne said, “As a senator I strongly advocated strengthening our ethics code. Some of my bills were successful; others were not viewed as favorably. I am pleased to endorse inclusion of statewide elected officials in the financial disclosure bill and hope the House and Senate will enact this legislation.”

Commissioner of Insurance Jim Donelon said, “I’m for full disclosure – the public benefits the more open government is.”

A recent statewide poll shows that Louisiana citizens strongly support initiatives to improve the state’s governmental ethics laws. In a recent survey of likely voters, 96 percent of respondents felt it was important to dramatically improve the state’s national

standing with regard to governmental ethics laws, with 87 percent stating that such a move is “very important.” Specific reform initiatives required to achieve this objective also have strong public support. For example, 78 percent of respondents want their legislators to support measures requiring expanded personal financial disclosure for elected officials and candidates.

### **About *LA Ethics 1*:**

***LA Ethics 1*** is a coalition of prominent Louisiana business and civic organizations that is pursuing a comprehensive, 2-3 year reform agenda designed to position our state as a national model for governmental ethics laws and enforcement. For additional information on this effort and the latest listing of organizations comprising ***LA Ethics 1***, please visit [www.LAethics1.com](http://www.LAethics1.com).

### ***LA Ethics 1* Coalition Partners:**

100 Black Men of Baton Rouge	Jefferson Chamber of Commerce
Ascension Chamber of Commerce	Jefferson Parish Business Council
Baton Rouge Area Chamber (BRAC)	League of Women Voters of Louisiana
Baton Rouge Black Chamber of Commerce	Louisiana Association of Business & Industry (LABI)
Baton Rouge Downtown Development District (DDD)	Louisiana Press Association (LPA)
Bayou Interfaith Shared Community Organizing (BISCO)	Louisiana State Alliance of YMCAs
Bossier Chamber of Commerce	Louisiana Technology Council
Chamber of Lafourche & The Bayou Region	Louisiana United Businesses Association (LUBA)
Chamber of Southwest Louisiana	NAACP of Baton Rouge
Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans	Natchitoches Area Chamber of Commerce
Committee of 100	Nat'l. Council of Jewish Women – Greater N.O. Section
Common Cause Louisiana	National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)
Council for A Better Louisiana (CABL)	New Orleans Business Council
East St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce	New Orleans Chamber of Commerce
Felician Chamber of Commerce	Northshore Business Council
Greater Abbeville-Vermillion Chamber of Commerce	Opelousas-St. Landry Chamber of Commerce
Greater Iberia Chamber of Commerce	River Region Chamber of Commerce
Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce	Ruston-Lincoln Chamber of Commerce
Greater New Orleans, Inc. (GNO Inc.)	St. Mary Industrial Group
Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce	St. Mary Parish Chamber of Commerce
Greater Tangipahoa Parish NAACP	St. Tammany West Chamber of Commerce
Hammond Chamber of Commerce	Thibodaux Chamber of Commerce
Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce	Ville Platte / Evangeline Chamber of Commerce
Iberia Comprehensive Community Health Center	West Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce
Iberville Chamber of Commerce	West Feliciana Community Development Foundation