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NBCSL COMMENTS ON CONFIRMATION OF SEN. JEFF SESSIONS AS U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL

February 9, 2017 – After bitter debate and protest, Sen. Jeff Sessions (AL) was confirmed as U.S. Attorney General. Sen. Sessions' nomination was hotly contested due to incidents in Sen. Sessions' past that suggested racial bias against people of color. NBCSL President Rep. Gregory W. Porter offered the following statement:

“The National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL) is extremely disheartened in the Senate’s decision to confirm Sessions. In back to back controversial confirmations, this Senate has shown they are dead set on rolling back the progress this nation has made in the last eight years. As NBCSL stated in our letter in opposition to Sen. Sessions, the position of Attorney General is not one that the President should give lightly or without consideration of the implication of actions of the office. It is with this understanding Sen. Sessions’ past indicates that his nomination would be problematic in ensuring equal protections for all. Furthermore, what should be noted was how vigorously members of the Senate fought against this nomination, and even the late Coretta Scott King had reservations against Sen. Sessions. We can only hope that Sen. Sessions is committed to enforcing the law the way he says he is. Members of NBCSL will continue to defend voting rights, fight against unconstitutional and discriminatory practices, and uphold the law to protect all citizens. Though disappointed, we are not defeated and will remain vigilant in protecting the rights of our constituents.”

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About NBCSL

The National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL) is composed of nearly 700 Black state legislators across 46 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Its primary mission is to develop, conduct and promote educational, research and training programs designed to enhance the effectiveness of its members, as they consider legislation and issues of public policy which impact, either directly or indirectly upon "the general welfare" of African American constituents within their respective jurisdictions.

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