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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**NAACP Arkansas State Conference Responds to Supreme Court Ruling in *Louisiana v. Callais***

The NAACP Arkansas State Conference expresses deep concern and strong opposition following the recent Supreme Court decision in *Louisiana v. Callais*. This ruling represents a significant moment in the ongoing struggle to protect voting rights and uphold the principles of fair representation in our democracy.

Echoing the national leadership of the NAACP, including Derrick Johnson and Kristen Clarke, the Arkansas State Conference recognizes the far-reaching implications of this decision on communities of color and historically marginalized voters.

**President Barry Jefferson of the NAACP Arkansas State Conference issued the following statement:**

“This ruling is deeply troubling and represents a serious step backward for voting rights in our country. For generations, Arkansans and Americans alike have fought to ensure equal access to the ballot, and decisions like this threaten to weaken those hard-earned protections.

Here in Arkansas, the impact of this decision is not theoretical; it is real and immediate. We have already seen ongoing challenges around fair districting, access to polling locations in rural communities, and barriers that disproportionately affect Black voters, seniors, and low-income residents. This ruling opens the door for further dilution of minority voting strength, particularly in regions like the Delta and other historically underrepresented communities.

Arkansas voters have faced strict voter ID requirements, reduced early-voting access in certain areas, and persistent concerns about equitable representation. Without strong federal protection, there is a real risk that communities of color will have fewer opportunities to elect candidates who reflect their needs and lived experiences.

Additionally, this decision could embolden efforts to redraw district lines in ways that fracture Black voting populations, weakening their collective voice and undermining decades of progress made under the Voting Rights Act.

This moment calls for renewed commitment—not only to advocacy and education—but to ensure that our communities remain engaged, informed, and empowered.

The NAACP Arkansas State Conference stands firmly in defense of democracy. We will continue working alongside our national leadership and local partners to protect voting rights, challenge injustice, and ensure every citizen has a fair opportunity to participate in the democratic process.

The NAACP Arkansas State Conference reaffirms its commitment to advancing civil rights, protecting access to the ballot, and ensuring accountability at every level of government. As the nation reflects on this decision, the organization calls on all citizens to stay engaged, informed, and active in shaping the future of our democracy.

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**About NAACP Arkansas State Conference**

**NAACP Arkansas State Conference is a civil rights organization that aims to achieve equity, political rights, and social inclusion for Black people and all persons of color.**