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LULAC of Iowa expresses disappointment in cancellation of Republican candidate forum

For immediate release
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DES MOINES, IA – Today, leaders of the League of United Latin American Citizens of Iowa expressed the civil rights organization's disappointment that the Republican presidential candidates will not appear at a forum that addresses issues of concern to the Latino and African-American communities.

The Republican Party of Iowa this summer announced that for the first time it would join the longtime Iowa Brown & Black Presidential Forum, which has hosted debates featuring the Democratic presidential candidates since 1984. Republicans had proposed a forum for their candidates, which was to be held Dec. 3 at Drake University.

That idea came to a halt today, as organizers of the Brown & Black Forum announced the Republican portion would be canceled because of "unresolved scheduling conflicts."

"Once again we are being shown that our community's concerns are not important to members of the Republican Party," said Joe Enriquez Henry, National LULAC Vice President of the Midwest. "At a time when we are mobilizing our people to participate on caucus night and Republicans will want our support, they still have not stepped forward to engage with our people."

LULAC of Iowa is in the midst of a statewide caucus education and outreach campaign – Latino Vote Iowa – to mobilize between 10,000 and 20,000 Latinos to participate in the Iowa Caucuses.

The Black & Black Forum for Democrats will continue as scheduled for Jan. 11, 2016 in Des Moines.

The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) is the nation's largest and oldest civil rights volunteer-based organization that empowers Hispanic Americans and builds strong Latino communities. Headquartered in Washington, D.C. with 1,000 councils around the United States and Puerto Rico, LULAC's programs, services and advocacy address the most important issues for Latinos, meeting critical needs of today and the future. For more information, visit www.LULAC.org, www.LULAC.org/facebook and www.LULAC.org/twitter.

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