OFFICE OF SENATOR ABRIMAX (D-FR)

Statement on Senator Roberts' Decision to Join the Republican Party

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Good Morning,

Yesterday Senator Roberts, my colleague in the Senate, issued a statement about them switching parties to the Republicans. I want to state it right now that the decision wasn't a complete surprise, as he too stated, we had many disagreements in the democratic caucus, but of course when I read the announcement I, too, was shocked.

There is no fury in me when I am stating this, however I am deeply disappointed in Senator Roberts. There is no question that the Democratic party is in shambles, but that does not mean, just because of our disagreements we should leave the party. I do understand the Senator's concerns about the leadership and specifically Majority Leader Baines' inability to hear his words, however joining the Republican caucus is not a solution. Roberts stated that he failed his state, he failed Douglass, which is correct, but he shouldn't blame our caucus for his failures. He failed to submit any bills throughout the months, but now instead of fixing the problem, he tries finding something else to blame it on.

Roberts stated that his votes won't be Republican, they will be Dixie's votes, but this is just completely untrue. Every value he fought for will be lost and his move only helps conservatives to gain more power, preventing any potential reform we could have had in America.

To conclude, I want to talk with hope, as we still have the Senate and our polling numbers are not looking bad, I truly believe that it isn't an impossible dream to keep this chamber of Congress, but if more of us choose to look away from problems instead of actually solving them, then there is nothing we can do, citizens will be left behind just for partisan causes. Senator Roberts' decision is sad and extremely disappointing, but is also a sign that we have to change the way we work in the Senate.

Thank you and God bless America.