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PRESS RELEASE

Statement from George Nee, President of Rhode Island AFL-CIO

“The Rhode Island AFL-CIO, on behalf of the Rhode Island labor movement and the sisters and brothers of our state who everyday work to make sure our state and its people enjoy the prosperity of our labors, condemns in the strongest possible way the recent comments of President Trump against Democratic Representatives Ilhan Omar, Ayanna Pressley, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, and Rashida Tlaib. For the President of the United States to embrace the racist rhetoric of White Nationalism as a weapon against four duly elected members of Congress, all of whom are United States citizens, who just happen to be women of color, is a dark day in our long history as a country founded on the principle of “All Men Are Created Equal.”

We in the labor movement live by a simple creed: “An Injury to One is an Injury to All.” The President’s attack on these women leaders is not simply about them, it is about all of us, and as a labor movement we stand united in our condemnation of this hateful, hurtful, and un-American rhetoric. Our 80,000 members are Democrats, Republicans, Independents and everything in between – but as workers we stand united in the principles that make this country great. We will not be silent while the values that we hold dear are undermined by a President who is more focused on dismantling the very foundations of our democracy than in upholding the values that our movement works daily to promote and protect.”