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## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** August 16, 2017

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### **LEADING STATE DEMOCRATS CONDEMN TRUMP RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC TERRORISM IN CHARLOTTESVILLE**

***Governor Raimondo, Speaker Mattiello, Senate President Dominick Ruggerio & Party Chair McNamara  
Call on All Americans to Unite Peaceably to Protect our Democracy***

**WARWICK, R.I.** – Rhode Island’s elected Democratic leaders joined today to condemn President Trump’s remarks Tuesday voicing support the ‘Alt-Right’ movement – White supremacists, neo-Nazis and members of the Ku Klux Klan - and called for Americans to unite peaceably to protect Democracy.

"The hateful and violent actions of white supremacists and self-identified Nazis this weekend leave no room for equivocation," said Governor Raimondo. "President Trump responded to the events this weekend with dog whistles and muddled words. I stand with Rhode Islanders from across our state against hate, racism and white supremacy. I call on President Trump and all elected and community leaders to make a clear, unequivocal statement that white supremacy, Nazism, racism and bigotry are evil and have no place in our democratic republic."

"All of our leaders have a responsibility to speak with one common voice against bigotry, hatred and prejudice. A failure to denounce such actions in Charlottesville and elsewhere is an implied acceptance of this intolerable behavior. Americans must stand united for decency, honesty and the shared common value of equality for all," said Nicholas A. Mattiello, Speaker of the Rhode Island House of Representatives.

President of the Senate Dominick J. Ruggerio said, "There can be no false equivalency between those who seek to subjugate groups of Americans and those who stand bravely against hatred and oppression. This isn't about left versus right; it's about right versus wrong. Rhode Islanders of diverse ideologies have fought to protect the American ideal that all people are created equal against the scourge of slavery during the Civil War, of Nazism during World War II, and of racism during the Civil Rights movement. We as Americans stand united against racism and intolerance, but the leader of this great nation must not

equivocate on the fundamental American principle espoused by George Washington to a Jewish congregation in Newport: that we shall give to bigotry no sanction.”

“America is at a crossroads. Do we continue our experiment in democracy or do we return to the days of bigotry, racism, hatred, and condoned violence?” asked Party Chair Joseph M. McNamara. “This is not a Republican / Democratic issue – this is an *American* issue; our nation needs its elected and political leaders to unite to speak out now against this injustice, and to fight to protect our nation from this divisive presidency.”

**\*\*COVERAGE INVITED\*\***

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