



For Immediate Release:  
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Press Release  
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## RI Dems call on Gemma to disavow staffer's hateful statement

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**Providence, RI** – In response to a tweet by key Anthony Gemma staffer Anthony Sionni, “nothing wrong with smearing a liar, thief, crook, Sandusky copy cat,” the Rhode Island Democratic Party today called on Mr. Gemma to disavow the hateful rhetoric issued from his campaign and terminate Sionni. His tweet was responding to a tweet from Bill Fischer earlier in the day regarding smear campaigns.

“Unfortunately, we are not convinced that this statement wasn’t issued intentionally, as part of a smear campaign that Gemma has perpetuated over the past week and a half,” said Bill Fischer, spokesperson for the Rhode Island Democratic Party.

“This is the latest example of reckless and irresponsible behavior from Mr. Gemma’s campaign. Last week Mr. Gemma’s sensationalistic press conference, attempting to tie Congressman Cicilline to voter fraud – failed miserably.” Fischer said. “Now this week, his campaign has resorted to comparing the congressman to Jerry Sandusky. These campaign tactics are irrational, slanderous, and hateful. It’s abundantly clear that Mr. Gemma doesn’t know where the line is. We want to assure him that he’s crossed it.”

Sionni is a key staffer for Gemma. He was recently featured in a Gemma campaign video entitled “Team Gemma.” He’s also a regular worker at Gemma campaign events.

“The Rhode Island Democratic Party requests that Mr. Gemma disavow his staffer’s statement; terminate this staffer; apologize to Mr. Cicilline for slandering him; and apologize to the voters of Rhode Island,” Fischer said. “Those would be good first steps toward decency.”

Screen shot of the tweet issued:



**Anthony Sionni** @Sionni  
[@williamjfischer](#) nothing wrong with smearing a liar, thief, crook,  
Sandusky copy cat  
[View conversation](#)

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