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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## RALIANACE Statement on Testimony of Dr. Christine Blasey Ford

Following Dr. Christine Blasey Ford's testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing regarding allegations of sexual assault made against Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh, RALIANACE Advocacy Director Ebony Tucker issued the following statement:

"We commend Dr. Christine Blasey Ford for her courage in coming forward with her story. In spite of the harassment and threats she and her family have received, she demonstrated incredible bravery today in choosing to share her experience with the millions of people watching across this country and around the world.

"This past week has been very painful for survivors. Every time we question, ridicule and demean a survivor that comes forward, we hurt those who are living with the trauma of sexual abuse and discourage even more people from coming forward.

"There are those who think that reporting years or even decades after a sexual assault is too late or that a delayed report is unfair because it ruins an offender's life. When we value the lives of victims, often women, as much as we value the lives of men, this will no longer be a serious consideration.

"This morning Dr. Ford described the memories, such as the laughter of her attackers, as 'indelible in the hippocampus' and said she was '100 percent' certain that it was Judge Kavanaugh who attacked her. Her description of the trauma she has been through and the details that are stuck in her brain decades later resonated with all those who have suffered sexual harassment, misconduct and abuse. Victims frequently experience trauma for years and decades. The courage required to make oneself whole after suffering abuse should be respected, never shamed into silence because an abuser would rather forget than be held accountable.

"We want all Senators and the nation to understand that this is much bigger than a single Supreme Court nominee. This is about the 15-year-old girl who finds herself hiding in the bathroom, terrified. She



is thinking “Is this how I will be treated if I come forward?” And the 17- year-old boy who finds himself emboldened to take without consent? He too is watching, and learning. What are we teaching them both?”

## ABOUT RALIANCE

RALIANCE is a national partnership dedicated to ending sexual violence in one generation. Every day, RALIANCE makes prevention possible by advancing research, influencing policy, supporting innovative programs and helping leaders establish safe workplaces and strong communities.

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