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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **RALIANCE Statement on Senate Confirmation of Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court**

Following the Senate's vote to confirm Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court, RALIANCE issued the following statement:

"Today's vote is an outrage. A majority of senators have spoken loudly and clearly about how little they respect the brave voices and experiences of sexual violence survivors.

"Through the tireless work of survivors, advocates and activists over the past decades, we have made progress in our national response to sexual harassment, misconduct and abuse. Yet, the Senate's decision to confirm Judge Kavanaugh to the highest court in the land dismisses survivors and underscores the continued reality of inequality and injustice in our institutions. It is a painful reminder that the effort to hold offenders and people in positions of power accountable is far from over. All of us must recommit to changing our culture so that survivors are believed, supported and able to seek the justice they deserve.

"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. Dr. Christine Blasey Ford, Deborah Ramirez, and Julie Swetnick shared their stories of sexual harassment, misconduct and abuse with the world, and what were they met with? Death threats and shame for their sexual histories. Disbelief and smears from members of Congress. Mockery from the president. These actions are unacceptable and stand in sharp contrast to the MeToo movement that is taking this country by storm.

"Despite the Senate's disappointing decision today, sexual violence can no longer be swept under the rug. In the face of such cowardice from our political leadership, redoubling our efforts to protect survivors is more important than ever. Prevention is possible. Survivors' voices are powerful. Together, we will end sexual violence."

**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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