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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

AFT-Maryland President Marietta English Statement on Capitol Hill Domestic Terrorism

The violence that took place yesterday was absolutely disgusting. Our country is one that operates on the rule of law and belief in that law. When elected leaders threaten to undermine the rule and overturn the will of the American voters, and go on to incite others to violently attempt to overturn the will of the people, our democracy loses all moral standing. The President and his allies in Congress should be ashamed of themselves. The rambunctious MAGA supporters who operated in rebellion to the United States should be ashamed of themselves and most importantly, we as a country should be ashamed of ourselves.

The country has a dark history of meeting every effort to expand democracy and include more people in the electoral process with vigilante white violence. Racist mob violence followed the end of reconstruction, preceded the passage of the Voting Rights Act, and has been brewing since President Obama's first term in office. What we saw yesterday was not an exception to the American narrative, but sadly a recurrence of America's worst behavior. For that, all Americans should be ashamed. We should be ashamed that we have not rid our nation of racist violence that follows greater inclusion in the electoral process.

Fortunately, all hope is not lost. The Senate victories in Georgia tell us that when more people participate in democracy, we can elect leaders who will govern with the best interest of all people in mind. We can start today by turning the page on the attempted coup of yesterday and work to rid our country of the stain of white supremacy once and for all.

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