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STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
**TREASURER SHAWN T. WOODEN**

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**STATEMENT OF STATE TREASURER SHAWN T. WOODEN  
APPLAUDING PRESIDENT BIDEN'S FIRST STEPS TOWARD  
A RACIAL EQUITY AGENDA**

*ADDRESSING SYSTEMIC RACISM IS THE FIRST STEP TOWARD CREATING  
AN EQUITABLE MORE PROSPEROUS SOCIETY*

**Hartford, CT** – Please see the following statement from Treasurer Shawn T. Wooden applauding President Biden's first steps toward a racial equity agenda.

“With multiple, overlapping crises affecting communities of color in our country, I am encouraged to see President Biden reaffirm his strong commitment to a racial equity agenda and take the first steps to implement that agenda today. It is clear the President understands that in order to create a more equitable, healthy and prosperous nation, we must address our country’s longstanding history of systemic racism.

Hours before President Biden’s inauguration ceremony, he referred to racial inequity as one of the four ‘converging crises’ facing the country. The agenda he presented today, is a step in the right direction to combat the racial inequities that have only served to hold our nation back from reaching its promise.

As we know, the pandemic and economic crisis have impacted communities of color especially hard. The racial reckoning that began last year following George Floyd’s killing has impacted the conscience of every American that wants a more perfect union. President Biden’s racial equity agenda seeks to prioritize building an inclusive economy by addressing racial economic disparities and making a long-term investment in our future. Over the past 50 years, the economic inequality gap has been expanding, and as a result of the pandemic, is currently on a path to continue to widen. President Biden is committed to addressing these inequities and meeting some of the most pressing challenges of our time through a ‘whole of government approach.’

It is going to take all of us working together to begin to create the long-term and sustainable change that our country so desperately needs. With President Biden's honest and bold leadership, I believe we can forge a better path forward for our nation.

I encourage leaders in the State of Connecticut to be just as honest and bold as we continue to confront racial justice and equity right here at home."

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#### **About State Treasurer Shawn T. Wooden**

Shawn T. Wooden is the only African American elected state treasurer in the United States and the only African American currently serving in as a statewide elected office in New England. He is also the Senior Vice President of the bi-partisan National Association of State Treasurers. Under his leadership, the Office of the Treasurer is dedicated to safeguarding the state's financial resources and taxpayers' dollars, while maximizing returns and minimizing risks in managing a \$42 billion pension system. He has been a leader in the financial services industry for diversity, equity, and inclusion. Last year, in partnership with the Ford Foundation, he launched the Corporate Call to Action Working Group (CCA). The CCA is a coalition of 18 prominent CEOs representing more than \$21 Trillion assets under management, established to advance racial and economic security and opportunity both within and outside of their companies.

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