

For Release:

Wednesday, June 3, 2020

Contact:

Matt O'Connor,
860/221-5696
moconnor@aftct.org

**Comments on Protests for Justice Following
Murder of George Floyd**

AFT Connecticut President Jan Hochadel today made the following public remarks in response to demonstrations across the state and country demanding accountability for last week's police killing in Minneapolis:

"Our members are still grieving the public execution the whole country witnessed last Tuesday in Minnesota. Many have taken to the streets in cities and towns across Connecticut over the past several days, joining arms with civil rights advocates to demand change.

"In this historic moment, I couldn't be prouder of their commitment to peacefully protest injustice and take collective action.

"Teachers, paraprofessionals and school-related personnel have had the added responsibility of helping children and young adults process the incident and the demonstrations. Despite the limitations of distance learning, they have provided guidance, support and comfort for their students' virtual 'living history' lesson.

"Their efforts are a reminder of the vital role educators play in cultivating future generations' civic engagement.

"For criminal justice professionals, video of yet another police killing of an unarmed black man has been particularly painful. They understand that each and every one of these tragic incidents erodes the public trust needed to protect all our communities.

"Their critically important work reinforces why 'a few bad apples' among officers responsible for keeping the peace cannot be tolerated.

"Finally, the events of the past week have generated additional stress and anxiety for nurses and health professionals. Many have taken on this additional burden while saving the lives of patients — and even some of their colleagues — battling COVID-19.

"Their commitment to protecting the community's physical health inspires hope at a time of great mental anguish.

"Let the examples set by so many of our union members help define this moment. From marching with 'Black Lives Matter' activists to lifting up black and brown youth, they are helping light the way toward a better future."

###

AFT Connecticut represents approximately 30,000 hard-working women and men in PreK-12 education, healthcare, public service and higher education from more than 90 local unions throughout the state. For more information, visit www.aftct.org or follow the labor federation on Twitter at [@AFTCT](https://twitter.com/AFTCT) and on Facebook at [AFT Connecticut](https://www.facebook.com/AFTConnecticut).

Healthcare
Higher Education
Public Employees
PSRP
Teachers

35 Marshall Road
Rocky Hill, CT 06067
860/257-9782
Fax: 860/257-8214
Toll Free: 888/398-3373
www.aftct.org

Jan Hochadel
PRESIDENT

John Brady, RN
VICE PRESIDENT

David Hayes
SECRETARY-TREASURER

VICE PRESIDENTS
Michael Barry
Dennis Bogusky
David Cicarella
Shellye Davis
John DiSette
Sal Escobales
Bill Garrity, RN
Joshua Hall
Heather Howlett
Christine Jean-Louis
Andrea Johnson
Stephanie Johnson, RPSGT
Tom Kuroski
Ed Leavy
Kristen Malloy Scanlon
Laila A. Mandour
Steve McKeever
Ally Sexton
Janice Stauffer, RN
Mary Symkowicz
Krista Vermeal
Mike White
Mary Yordon