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The Honorable Gina M. Raimondo
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Remarks as Prepared for Delivery

Long before I was the governor of Rhode Island, I was a little girl growing up in a middle-class family. My dad found his American dream at a watch factory. His job gave him a way to provide for us, a community, and pride. But like so many Americans in the '80s, after 25 years of hard work, his job was shipped overseas. He later told me, "This happened because our leaders let us down."

He was right. Republicans in power pushed a failed economic strategy to cut taxes for the wealthy that left too many behind. Not only did my dad lose his job, but manufacturing largely left Rhode Island. Across the state and the nation, factories shuttered, communities got hollowed out, and people were left without jobs, hope, and dignity.

Republican economic policy failed Rhode Island. When I took office, we turned it around with a pro-business, pro-worker agenda. Kamala Harris has that same agenda. She knows we need an economy where costs are low and opportunities abound. An economy where people can show up to their jobs with dignity and pride. A new economic vision for America.

She knows this because, like me, Kamala Harris grew up in a middle-class home. Her mother worked to cure breast cancer by day and feed her family at night. As an adult, Kamala worked to lock up sex offenders and violent criminals by day. And took care of her sick mother by night. So she gets that too many of us work too hard to just scrape by.

It's a fundamental American principle: hard work should pay off. That's why the vice president is committed to building the opportunity economy that rewards ambition and hard work. Where everyone—regardless of who you are, what you have, or where you start—has a chance to get ahead.

Kamala Harris will give more than 100 million middle-class Americans a tax cut, build three million new homes for the middle class, and forge an economy with fair competition, free from monopolies that crush workers, small businesses, and startups. And she will make building up the middle class a defining goal of her presidency.

Meanwhile, Donald Trump is doubling down on his worst economic ideas—the same ideas that shipped my dad's job overseas. He wants another huge tax cut for the wealthy, more of his corrupt cronies in charge of the economy, and sales taxes that will supercharge inflation. Kamala Harris works for the people. Donald Trump is only for himself. As our president, Kamala Harris will build an economy where everyone can find and live their American dream.

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