CED Welcomes Joint Statement from Presidential Foundations on Democracy

New York, NY, September 20, 2023... The Committee for Economic Development, the public policy center of The Conference Board (CED), welcomes the joint statement released earlier this month from thirteen Presidential Foundations and Centers, representing nearly every President from Hoover to Obama, reaffirming their support for commitment to the democratic values on which our nation was founded. The effort, organized by the George W. Bush Presidential Center, marks the first time that these organizations carrying on the mission of former Presidents have come together to address the American public.

Acknowledging that they “represent a wide range of views across a breadth of issues,” the signatories “recognize that these views can exist peaceably side by side when rooted in the principles of democracy”; indeed, “[d]ebate and disagreement are central features in a healthy democracy.” Adding that “[c]ivility and respect in political discourse” are essential to democracy, they note the importance of government officials leading by example to help restore the trust of the American people in the government they elect.

CED joins with these groups in our belief that “Democracy holds us together.”

Media Contact
adonovan@tcb.org

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