

# VoteRunLead

## VoteRunLead Statement on Alumni Representative Ilhan Omar

*The VoteRunLead community recognizes the leadership of Representative Omar*

For Immediate Release

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At VoteRunLead, we are proud that Representative Omar went through our training, ran for, and won political office. We are in the arena of getting women to run - no matter what side of the aisle - and delve into serious issues in our country.

Both anti-semitic and anti-muslim rhetoric and violence are on the rise under this administration; this fear-mongering is connected, deliberate, and divisive. We commend the freshman class of diverse women in Congress for asking tough questions, encouraging debate, and not shying away from hot-button issues. We encourage other leaders to join this debate, to create avenues for healthy dialogue with their colleagues, to condemn violence, threats on one's life, and everyday racism.

VoteRunLead recognizes that women, especially women of color, in public office face regular threats of sexual violence, death, and pain on their families for their ambitions, their ideas, and their courage to speak up. According to countless news articles -- and stories we hear regularly -- this, too, is on the rise. As Americans, as women, and as an organization, we know that we are diverse, not divided, and are ready for an open dialogue based on trust and void of hate.

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