

**From:** AM HERE  
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**To:** T9PublicHearing  
**Subject:** Written Comment: Title IX Public Hearing Higher Education; Cause and Effects

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They say, “The road to hell is paved with good intention”.

My respondent student is a “long-hauler” with 9 years in, navigating campus Title IX. He’s lost nearly everything important to him. The continued journey we face promises to take most of the rest; it seeks to destroy.

Revered as a noble cause, the 2011 Dear Colleague Letter firmly reminded schools of their obligation under Title IX - to provide education and its benefits to all students, complainants and respondents alike, free from sex-based discrimination. Mob voice and politics intersected with good intention - confusion, pressure and fear grew - and Title IX’s protection became the weapon.

Flawed processes barricaded institutions and administrators from government. Students were left to navigate Hell alone. Good intention was abandoned.

Choices made and decisions reached guaranteed fair, equal treatment for no one.

For 1000s like my family, the Road's journey requires a "every human for oneself" strategy to survive an inhumane process.

A presumption of innocence, the constitutional concept taught in grade school did not, strikingly, apply AT school.

My student's experience with campus Title IX revealed fundamentally unfair processes, including

- Processes implemented that did not align with published school policy, both of which were often revised while kept from the students involved
- Multiple adjudications of the same allegation, one after the other under separate school policies; commonly known as double, even triple jeopardy
- The inability to defend oneself before unbiased hearing panelists, all pertinent evidence considered, and opportunity to question, indirectly, each student
- Processes based on political narrative rather than truth

- Falsification of student records by schools to protect school interest
- To remain unheard, dismissed, over provable concerns of unfair practices, harassment and stalking of a respondent with no action taken.
- To experience a finding of non responsibility, which, from that day forward, does not provide for an education free from discrimination and unencumbered from wrongful restraints

In that year, my child spent most days on the floor of his dorm bathroom, in the fetal position, shower running to muffle his cries. At 20, he attempted to take his life.

Once, my student described his life's view as "a cup filled to the brim." Today, he is left with permanent brain damage as a direct result of what The Road to Hell inflicted on him as an adolescent college freshman.

No human should be made to suffer this way again.

My son and a friend were talking recently, and the topic of campus Title IX came up. (It's been in the news a lot lately.) The friend, a Native American student who also attended a federally funded United States university, listened intently to my student's story from beginning to

end. The friend's response was quick: "I don't understand. Why would you ever have lesser rights than me under Title IX? That's discrimination based on race, and is illegal. As a Native American, I am guaranteed due process protections in school discipline investigations but other races were not until DeVos?" The discriminators targeted you because you're a guy and a non Native American?

Don't be fooled; my respondent student's experience is not an outlier; thousands have also journeyed The Road to Hell. Like my student, they suffer the effects of PTSD and ongoing psychological and emotional illness. Ignorance, lack of consideration, and unwillingness to understand are only feeble excuses by those who prefer their blindness to the truth.

Over two thousand students and families have contacted support organizations like Families Advocating for Campus Equality (FACE). A majority of Congressional staffers polled report a friend, roommate, teammate "who this happened to" while in college. Families learn that multiple classmates from their secondary school have left to go to college only to have "that happen to them". All are forever impacted by former unfair, biased practices.

Do your plans for reform acknowledge the wrongs against them And plans to ensure it will not happen again? Do your plans provide them security in knowing they can count on fair and equal treatment? Do your plans provide them a voice?

We MUST solidify Title IX reform with current Regulation guaranteeing fair and equal treatment of every student, required school compliance, without fueled political narrative and its resulting discrimination based on gender and race. THIS is the true crisis and there is no excuse for not correcting these imbalances. It's the right thing to do. It's the law.