To the U.S. Department of Education,

Progress is impossible without change.

We must be willing to grow and change as a country to end violence against women and promote gender equity through Title IX.

Right now women and men are part of an unprecedented movement for women’s rights, equality and justice. From global marches to social media campaigns like #MeToo, women are raising their voices in unison, calling out sexual harassment, and organizing to build back better.

My name is Dolores Ann Lozano and I am a first-generation college graduate of Baylor University. As a survivor of violence, I am fortunate to write and submit this comment to this esteemed department in hopes for change.

More than ever, we must restore long-standing protections and provide support for student survivors. It is extremely difficult to come forward as a survivor.
Survivors face ridicule, attacks and threats. Pulling from my lived experience, I have encountered instability, abandoned dreams, triggering workplaces, inadequate healthcare, and more while fighting for justice. Justice should promote healing. It should make survivors feel valued and safe. Yet, the process of seeking justice has exacerbated harm -- and there is nothing *just* about that.

Do people understand that the pain of not being believed -- of being ignored -- of being questioned -- is almost as agonizing as the assault itself?

I went public in 2016, bolstered by the countless women who found their voices before me. I share my story because I want to help other women. I want them to know they are not alone.

But speaking my truth is not easy. And unfortunately at this point in time, it comes with tons of barriers. Which explains the length of my testimony.

I encourage the Department of Education to restore robust Title IX protections, so survivors like myself can restore confidence in a system that was built to protect us. We need a rule that addresses the necessity of having our voices heard so an extra burden is not placed on people like me 5+ years after graduation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a written comment on Title IX.

Kindly,
Dolores Ann Lozano