I write to urge our Government to give unwavering support to students who have experienced discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity; they deserve and are entitled to have their legal rights fully met. Commitment must be made to ensure equal and nondiscriminatory access to education for all students.

As both a person and faith and a person of queer identity, there is no question that I have chosen the beliefs constituting my faith, and these beliefs are worthy of protection; but I am inherent in my sexual orientation and this inherent right to exist must be of paramount lawfully protected concern despite beliefs that may freely exist in tension with this reality. As one who attended a private Christian-affiliated undergraduate institution supported by federal aid, I deserved full access to programs and services. Students today deserve the same, and too often they are not receiving such opportunity.

The evidence is clear. Diversity within sexual orientation and gender identity is natural and harms no one; attempts at suppression of such diversity are deeply harmful. It’s time for a course correction.

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