

Alumni, thank you. Thank you for being here for us despite how retraumatizing it may be to see your successors go through what you went through. Thank you for fighting for us back then. Thank you for fighting with us now.

I'm RuQuan, a junior at Harvard College from Washington, D.C. Throughout history, Black Washingtonians have stood up for themselves, each other, and the nation through protest and passion. I approach this document, life, and this brewing movement, with the passion to protest in the way that Washingtonians taught me. When I was 11, I worked with my classmates to protest the unjust expulsion of 3 teachers who empowered us with true Black history in Washington. 5 years later, I created a company that raised about \$100K to share with families that are underrepresented in the gun violence prevention movement. Since then, I've used my voice (@RuQuanSavion on TikTok and Instagram) to speak up for students around the nation. Whether it be faculty dismissing students' traumatic experiences, administration being willfully ignorant of students' social-emotional needs, or peers and colleagues being more committed to comfort and clout than to challenging the status quo. In on campus meetings, at lectures and sections, and on social media I've articulated an array of intentional words to help set us free from these plagues. The humanity of our brothers and sisters being violated on April 4th is an additional log in the fire to the mind, body, and soul wrenching experience that we have been enduring since 1619.

Allison Hunter, dozens of my classmates (Graduate and Undergraduate students), and I have worked together on a strong list of demands to present to the University Administration in the coming days.

Our outline to the University includes that our efforts must result in a team of students who are compensated to spend the summer working with Harvard to create legislation that will protect students' mental, emotional, spiritual, and physical health.

We trust that the effort and time spent this summer will result in positive changes for students on this campus and around the world. We are inspired by students from 1968 who worked very hard to make sure that we had a Black studies department, of which I am a student. That passion motivates us to keep doing the work so that the students of tomorrow are grateful for us, too.

I'm eager. I trust you are too. The work is just beginning.

Please follow me on social media (@RuQuanSavion), as I will be posting updates on how you can directly support our movement going forward. We are happy to have the support of graduate and undergraduate students, the Coalition for a Diverse Harvard, the Harvard Black Alumni Society, and many alumni.