

March 25, 2025

United States House of Representatives

Congressman Don Beyer

c/o Zach Cafritz

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1226 Longworth House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

**RE: COVISTA, COX V. WALDEN, YOUR DECISION TO STAND WITH, AND YOUR INTERVENTION ON BEHALF OF AN INSTITUTION ACCUSED OF PREYING ON AND SYSTEMIC ABUSE OF BLACK WOMEN**

Dear Congressman Beyer,

My name is Terrance Alton Cox, III. I am writing to you because I am perplexed by your willingness to cross the red line of justice, discrimination, and institutional racism to shine the spotlight of decency on COVISTA by using your global platform to showcase them as a responsible partner.

As the named plaintiff in Cox v. Walden University, et al., now Covista, pending in the Georgia Court of Appeals: “Cox v. Walden University, et al., Case No. A26A0741”. I am writing to you not as an abstract advocate or policy expert, but as a Black man whose life, health, family, and livelihood were shattered after I was targeted by the institution you are now helping to rehabilitate.

I’m a devoted father, entrepreneur, philanthropist, and recipient of a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition by former Chairman of the U.S. Congress’ Ways and Means Committee, the late Congressman Charles Rangel (NY-13). Presently, I am a nationally recognized speaker for the stroke recovery community, author of several books on stroke, including *God Is Not Through With Me Yet: My Testimonial: Redemption From A Deadly Stroke*, and the creator of the Terrence Alton Cox 12-step Stroke Recovery program designed to help people worldwide in their stroke recovery journey.

I am the host of The Real State Of Black America! Your Voice of the Nation, Founder of Terrance Cox Global Network, sponsor of Global Mixed Gender Basketball, Organizer of the Minority Youth Matters Movement, and was the first to have an American Standard Motorsports Award at the NASCAR Hall of Fame, and a man with a passion for excellence.

I respectfully request a clear explanation of your role in supporting Covista (formerly Walden University/Adtalem Global Education) in light of the serious civil-rights and consumer-protection allegations against this institution, and the related class-action settlement on behalf of Black women. I am deeply concerned about the treatment of Black women in higher education and the integrity of congressional oversight to ensure transparency and fair treatment.

I suffered a devastating stroke. While I was fighting for my life and struggling to regain basic functions, I allege that Walden/Covista and its agents conspired to strip me of my health insurance, cut off my access to essential medication and therapy, and set in motion a chain of fraudulent charges and false reports that left me disabled, homeless, and in despair. The trauma is not theoretical for me; it is stitched into my body, my medical records, and the ongoing legal proceedings in Cox v. Walden University, et al. Case.

I find it hard to believe that you do not know that Walden/Covista has been the subject of extensive litigation and public scrutiny for its alleged pattern of targeting Black women with predatory doctoral programs, misrepresenting time-to-degree and costs, and prolonging dissertation phases to extract additional tuition and federal aid. Covista (formerly Adtalem Global Education), a for-profit healthcare education company that does not primarily rely on direct federal government funding for its operational revenue. Instead, its revenue comes primarily from tuition, which is funded through a combination of student out-of-pocket payments, private financing, and federal student aid (Title IV funds).

Their practices have disproportionately burdened Black women with unmanageable debt and derailed careers and family stability. In Cox v. Walden University (now Covista), I allege a broader pattern of racially discriminatory and abusive conduct, including the use of fraudulent charges and false reports that harmed my family and further crippled a disabled Black man recovering from a stroke.

I respectfully urge you to:

Conduct your own due diligence on Covista - Walden University's litigation history, including the class action filed on behalf of Black female students and the recent settlement.

Review the allegations in Cox v. Walden University, [www.Waldenyoucameatmyblackchild.com](http://www.Waldenyoucameatmyblackchild.com), and other related complaints that describe a pattern of conduct that many of us know, based on court findings, reflects systemic bias and exploitation of Black students and students of color.

Consider how featuring Covista, without any reference to this history or to concrete reforms and reparative measures, may conflict with your moral, ethical, professional, and personal values around equity, inclusion, and responsible partnership.

You are not a stranger to these issues. As a member of Congress, you have access to the same public litigation records I do. You can read the class-action complaint, the settlement documents, and the filings in Cox v. Walden University. You can see for yourself that Black women and Black families have come forward, in detail and under oath, to say: this institution hurt us.

That is why your decision to publicly align yourself with Covista is so painful and so alarming. The statements that follow were made by individuals entrusted with the education and well-being of nearly a 60% minority student body at Walden, and even greater in the total Covista universe. They are reprehensible and evidence of a toxic, racist institutional culture. These statements are a part of a typical office conversation at Walden, supported by their parent company (Covista) and legal representatives:

“If 60 minutes delved into the white privilege KKK atmosphere of this University business model at Walden, the country would be blown away. It's just a privilege we have by being white.”

“If the FBI or the Feds investigated Walden's racist practices, it would be called a hate crime against the Black family in education. Michael Betz, Sue Subocz, the board members and top

executive would all go to prison for life for what they have done to Black families. They are just fucking up the Black student's credit. This is a true hate crime..."

"Walden University's attitude is to promote the white student even if some of the Blacks are more qualified, that is why Walden does not want more than 10% Black faculty, and they prefer the Black faculty to be light-skinned or mixed".

"Black women stink."

"Black students produce kids like rats and pigs."

"Black women are the worst mothers."

"HBCUs are all ghetto schools."

"Who is Dr. Umar Johnson?... He looks like a big gorilla."

"Blacks students as well as the Teachers, Doctors and Professors are dumb and illiterate to technology."

"Black women should never wear the AKA badge or logo in a white environment. They should never wear that ghetto brand. Walden University does not care about that ghetto brand."

"The Black women in the office all smell funny... Maybe the braids and weave?... But we have to have some women of color in the office. It makes us look good and it is compliant for the overall money. I can't take the smell of Black women."

"Those AKA look like a bunch of fat black wildebeests, with weaves on their heads... Nobody is going to marry a cow."

"If those ghetto Black women would suck more D!\*^ there would not be so many gay Black

men...It's the Black fags that started all this gay shit.”

Despite this record, from where I sit, as a disabled Black man, a father, and a survivor of what I consider institutional abuse, it appears that Covista appears to be using Black women's visibility and proximity to power, including your office, to sanitize its reputation, deflect attention from its conduct, and rebrand itself as a responsible partner in education, workforce development, and “equity” initiatives.

From the vantage point of those who have been harmed, it looks as if Black women are being used as a shield, and you are being used as a validator, to diffuse and minimize the seriousness of the allegations against Covista. Black women are placed on the front of the brochure; your name and your title are placed on the program; and together you are used as a buffer to deflect attention from Covista's pattern of alleged racism, exploitation, and abuse. Instead of facing its history, Covista is wrapping itself in our image and your power.

My own case, *Cox v. Walden University*, arose from the same broader pattern, filed in Georgia Court of Appeals, my case details a disturbing pattern of Walden and its parent company, Adtalem Global Education (Covista), allegedly using their resources to support institutional racism and discriminatory practices. The complaint accuses Walden staff, with university backing, of filing fraudulent charges and false police reports against me, and of deliberately targeting my young daughter with actions that have caused ongoing suffering and trauma. While I will not litigate the case in this letter, my complaint details a pattern of behavior that I and others view as racially discriminatory and exploitative, impacting my family and causing long-term financial and professional damage.

Taken together, these developments establish a historical context and pattern of concern:

While recovering from a stroke, a period marked by significant medical vulnerability, staff at Walden University conspired with my ex-wife, Dr. Crystal Lewis, to remove me from our health insurance, thus depriving me of essential healthcare and rehabilitation services.

The complaint asserts that university personnel, along with Dr. Lewis, orchestrated a campaign

of harassment and intimidation to cut my access to vital medication and physical therapy, and ultimately forced me out of our home, resulting in homelessness.

The staff contributed to defamation of my character, pain, mental and physical suffering, while I was struggling to recover from the stroke. They are charged with civil conspiracy, coercion, racial discrimination, and causing permanent disability.

At Walden's direction, a series of fraudulent charges and false police reports were made against me and my daughter, which not only exacerbated my precarious situation but also constituted an attempt to have us unjustly imprisoned while disabled and without resources. This diabolical action could have unalived my precious daughter and I.

I am aware that Walden has rebranded and that Covista is now being positioned in the marketplace with a fresh name and renewed messaging in areas such as healthcare, education, IT/AI, and workforce solutions. My concern is that a change in branding does not in itself address the underlying issues that led to the lawsuits and the harm experienced by Black students, Black women, and my family. In fact, inviting Covista into high-visibility events without acknowledging this history risks diminishing or erasing the lived experiences of those who have been affected. This action, based on past performance, provides a clean license for Covista to double down on its corrupt, discriminatory, and illegal activities.

In a 2018 World Bank study, the study found that barriers to girls' education could cost countries between \$15 trillion and \$30 trillion in lost lifetime productivity. In September of 2024, a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report, requested by Rep. Ayanna Pressley and Congressional Black Caucus members, found that Black girls face disproportionately harsh discipline in U.S. public schools. In fact, Black girls are being pushed out. Representative Pressley and others described this data as a "crisis of criminalization" and a "pushout" of Black girls from educational environments. For the Black girls that make it out into Covista's for-profit universe, instead of a quality education to change their lives for the better, they are targeted and systemically preyed upon, thus causing irreparable harm to their families with generational consequences.

In that context, your recent actions raise several urgent questions:

Why are you out in front of your colleagues?

The Senate and multiple House committees, including Education and the Workforce, Oversight, Judiciary, and Appropriations, have been engaged on issues related to for-profit institutions, predatory lending, and the targeting of Black and female students. Members of the Congressional Black Caucus have likewise demanded stronger protections for Black women and girls in education. Why have you chosen to move ahead of your House colleagues, including CBC members, committee Chairs and Ranking Members, by aligning yourself with Covista before the full scope of its conduct has been vetted and addressed?

Yet you have stepped out in front of this process, aligning yourself with Covista before your House colleagues, before the CBC, and before the relevant Committee Chairs and Ranking Members have completed their work. Why? What urgency compelled you to validate Covista now, before Congress has fully confronted what Black women and families have alleged in Class Action Case No. 1:22-cv-00051-JRR and in *Cox v. Walden University*, Case No. A26A0741.

Are you prepared to endorse Covista's record while looking Black women and girls in the eyes?

Given the litigation history, the class-action settlement on behalf of Black women, and the pending *Cox v. Walden* case, do you believe Covista's historical record of discrimination, exploitation, and alleged institutional racism against Black women is compatible with your stated commitments to equity and civil rights? If not, why have you been willing to lend your office's credibility to this institution at this time? There are detailed allegations of fraudulent charges, false reports, and racially biased actions that nearly cost my daughter and I our lives and our futures. You know that public filings describe a workplace and institutional culture where Black women were reportedly mocked, demeaned, and treated as expendable profit centers.

When you stand next to Covista, when you lend your office to their events and branding, are you willing to say publicly: "I am comfortable with this record; I believe this institution deserves a clean slate"? If not, then why are you allowing your presence to be used to create that impression?

What is the nature of your relationship with Covista?

To avoid even the appearance of impropriety, the public deserves transparency about any financial, political, or personal relationship between you (and your affiliated entities) and Covista/Adtalem/Walden or their executives, lobbyists, and affiliates. Have you or your campaign(s) received contributions, sponsorships, in-kind support, or other consideration from Covista or its network? Have you or your staff received any honorariums, engaged in paid or unpaid advisory roles, events, or initiatives that materially benefit Covista's rebranding and market positioning?

Given the long history of abuse scandals where power and proximity allowed predators to operate, such as with the Trump/Epstein child sex-trafficking relationship, transparency matters. I am asking you plainly:

Have you or your campaigns received contributions, sponsorships, or other financial support from Covista, Adtalem, Walden, or their executives, lobbyists, or affiliates?

Have you or your staff participated in events, advisory boards, or initiatives that materially advance Covista's rebranding and business interests?

Have there been discussions about partnerships, pilot programs, or other arrangements that could benefit Covista financially or reputationally?

These are questions the House Oversight and Accountability Committee should be willing to ask, not because you are assumed guilty, but because the public has a right to know whether there is any financial or personal incentive behind your decision to step in front of your colleagues on behalf of an institution accused of systematically harming Black women. Making a public statement to answer these questions honestly will absolve you of any perception of impropriety.

Will you support an independent review by Congress?

The House Oversight and Accountability Committee, along with relevant authorizing committees, is the appropriate venue to examine both Covista's conduct and the relationships between members of Congress and entities accused of systemic abuse of Black women and students of color. Will you support and cooperate with such an examination, including a review of your interactions with Covista?

Do you understand how this looks to your constituents, especially to those of us who have lived this trauma?

I want to be precise here. I am not saying you are Jeffrey Epstein or that you share the same crimes as the predators in those files. But I am saying that there is a recognizable pattern in how power operates:

A powerful man or institution is accused of profound harm to women, often to women of color.

They surround themselves with respectable names, friendly politicians, and “diverse” faces to soften their image.

Those in power minimize, delay, or deflect scrutiny in ways that protect institutions, not survivors.

When a sitting Congressman aligns himself with an institution under active scrutiny for alleged abuses of Black women, and appears to move faster to help that institution than to stand with the women and families who say they were harmed, it echoes that same pattern. It tells Black women and disabled Black men like me that, once again, our pain is negotiable, but the comfort of corporate donors and professional networks is not.

I cannot accept that.

So I am asking you, Congressman Beyer, as plainly and personally as I can:

Will you publicly explain your decision to support Covista at this time, in light of the ongoing and recent litigation involving Black women and Black families?

Will you disclose any financial or other material ties between yourself and Covista/Adtalem/Walden or their representatives?

Will you commit to supporting a full and transparent review by the House Oversight Committee and other relevant committees into Covista's conduct and into relationships between Covista and members of Congress, including your own?

Will you pause or withdraw your visible support for Covista until these matters are fully examined and the voices of Black women and survivors are heard and respected?

These are not abstract questions. Your constituents, particularly women, Black women, Black families, African and Caribbean diaspora communities, and survivors of institutional abuse, will judge your representation by how you respond to credible evidence of harm and by whether you prioritize their dignity and protection over corporate interests and rebranding campaigns.

Covista (formerly Adtalem Global Education) is one of the largest educational institutions in America. It operates through five accredited institutions that serve over 97,000 students. These institutions, which focus on healthcare education, include the American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine, Chamberlain University, Ross University School of Medicine, Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine, and Walden University. Let the record reflect that in the Manchester Report's "Urgent Report on Adtalem Global Education's Exploitative Operations in the Caribbean – Echoes of U.S. Predation and a Call for Accountability," resulted in the development of the CARICOM Diaspora Restitution Relief Initiative, a multi-billion-dollar framework designed to confront institutionalized racism and economic extraction targeting Black women and girls, Black families, CARICOM nations, and people of African descent worldwide. This is not an isolated incident; discrimination is a business practice for Covista.

Many of us cannot help but notice the dissonance between your public image and the perception created when a powerful white male elected official aligns with an institution accused of systematically preying on Black women and then appears to use his office to blunt or get ahead of congressional scrutiny. In the wake of high-profile abuse and trafficking scandals, from Weinstein to Epstein, Halperin to Franken, or Trump to Dershowitz to others where power, proximity, and silence enabled predation, the question is unavoidable: what message does it send when a member of Congress appears more willing to defend or normalize an institution with a documented record of alleged abuse than to

stand unequivocally with women who say they were harmed?

To be clear, I am not alleging that you personally engaged in conduct comparable to that of those predators. I am asking you to recognize the symmetry and confront the parallel in power dynamics: when men in positions of authority minimize, sidestep, or help rebrand institutions accused of exploiting women, especially Black women, they participate in a culture that allows harm to continue. That is not the standard your constituents deserve. Over 40% of your constituency are minorities, and they expect you to protect them from all forms of violence because this is what America promotes. Almost 52% of your constituency voted for candidate Harris for President.

According to your website, you write, “Our residents are some of the best educated, modern, and ethnically diverse in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the 8th is one of the best places in the country to live, work, and visit”. Do you believe you are the best representative for the 50.5% of people who live in your district who happen to be women?

Accordingly, I respectfully request that you publicly affirm that you stand with Black women and students of color who have alleged harm, that you support robust congressional oversight of for-profit education abuses, and that you will not allow your office to be used to launder or obscure corporate misconduct.

This is an opportunity for you to demonstrate that your commitment to equity, civil rights, and the safety and dignity of women is not situational or symbolic, but concrete and consistent, even when it is politically inconvenient. You have a choice. You can continue down a path where your name and office are used to launder the reputation of an institution accused of systemic racism and exploitation of Black women. Or you can choose to stand with the people who have already paid in blood, in debt, in disability, and in shattered dreams.

To address some of the losses impacting our community by Covista, the CARICOM Diaspora Restitution Relief Initiative documented harms linked to Adtalem’s business model and its affiliates have extracted tremendous resources from our communities. This fund is to address damages caused by institutionalized racism, discriminatory and deceptive practices, and extractive economic conduct that

have disproportionately harmed Black women, Black families, CARICOM Member States, and the wider African Diaspora.

Adtalem Global Education, re-branded as COVISTA, Walden University, Ross University School of Medicine, and the American University of the Caribbean, have relied on racially targeted recruitment, misleading program structures, and high-cost, high-debt educational offerings that repatriate substantial profits to shareholders while imposing long-term financial burdens on vulnerable Black communities.

Adtalem Global Education, through affiliates like Ross University School of Medicine (RUSM) in Barbados and American University of the Caribbean (AUC) in Sint Maarten, extracts billions in tuition from Caribbean-hosted operations while delivering minimal net economic benefits, mirroring U.S. tactics of targeting vulnerable Black students, inflating costs, and imposing generational debt. These for-profit entities function as modern-day robber barons, repatriating profits to U.S. shareholders, leaving local economies with temporary construction jobs and unfulfilled promises of prosperity.

Walden's class-action settlement over misrepresentations to predominantly Black and female doctoral students, combined with prior enforcement actions and mounting borrower-defense claims in Adtalem's network, confirms a pattern in which institutional racism, reverse redlining, and exploitative use of "DEI-branded" outreach generate wealth for corporate and advisory beneficiaries at the expense of Black women and the Diaspora.

Adtalem, now Covista's operations are described as extractive and neocolonial, with Ross and AUC leveraging Caribbean territory, public infrastructure, regulatory goodwill, and the aspirations of students while returning limited, durable value to host economies. This has caused a catastrophic "economic impact" that overshadows long-term profit outflows and exacerbates education-linked debt, especially among Black women and working-class families, projecting more than 100 million dollars in annual diaspora outflows by 2030 if these practices continue unchecked.

With such an overwhelming body of evidence of community harm, the Fund was established to create concrete legal, economic, and human-rights leverage for CARICOM states and the African diaspora. The Initiative is designed to:

Structure path to restitution  
Debt relief for harmed students  
Protection of Black women and girls  
Stronger bargaining power for CARICOM  
Investment in non-extractive education  
Economic sovereignty and reduced capital flight  
Legal and regulatory precedent  
Human-rights and reparatory justice framing  
Political and narrative power  
Deterrence of future abuses

I have been sounding the alarm for over one year, asking for oversight and investigations into the actions of Covista. I have reached out to the following Members, Committees, organizations, institutions, media, and the general public because if not me, then who?

Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pension Committee – Sen. Bill Cassidy, M.D., Chairperson and Sen. Bernie Sanders, Ranking Member

House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform – Rep. James Comer, Chairperson, and Rep. Robert Garcia, Ranking Member

House Judiciary Committee - Rep. James Jordan, Chairperson and Rep. Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member

House Committee on Education and Workforce – Rep. Tim Walberg, Chairperson and Rep. Robert Scott, Ranking Member

House Energy & Commerce Committee Subcommittee on Health - Rep. Morgan Griffith, Chairperson  
Rep. Diana Degette, Ranking

Rep. Diana Harshbarger, Vice Health Chair

Ways & Means Committee Subcommittee on Health – Rep. Vern Buchanan, Chairman and Rep. Lloyd Doggett, Ranking Member

House Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Related Agencies -  
Rep. Robert Aderholt, Chairman

Rosa DeLauro – Ranking Member

Rep. Julia Letlow – Vice Chair

United Nations Human Rights Permanent Forum for People of African Descent Ambassador Martin Kimani, PhD

United Nations, Secretary-General António Guterres

Governor Andy Beshear, KY

Gov. Spencer J. Cox, UT

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Roberta Clarke, President, Costa Rica

The Right Honourable Prime Minister of Barbados, Hon. Mia Mottley, Barbados

United States President, Donald Trump

The Hon. Prime Minister Dr. Luc Mercelina, Sint Maarten

Pastor Jamal H. Bryant, New Birth Missionary Baptist Church Executive Team

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), Scott Bessent, Acting Director

New York Stock Exchange, Chairman Sharon Bowen

U.S. Department of Justice – Civil Rights Division - Disability Rights Section

Better Business Bureau

Federal Trade Commission

Congressional Black Caucus, Chairwoman Yvette D. Clarke

Judiciary Committee, Congressman Jim Jordan

Harvey Levin, TMZ News

Rachel Maddow Show, NBC Studios

### **Civil Rights 10 -**

NAACP

National Action Network

SCLC

Black Lives Matter

Divine 9

Black Lawyers' Association

Black Panthers

Black Israelites

Urban League  
RainbowPUSH

Kash Patel, FBI Director  
Stephen Miller, Homeland Security Adviser  
Chad Mizelle, Chief of Staff, DOJ  
John Ratcliffe, CIA Director  
Brendan Carr, FCC Chairman  
Pam Bondi, Attorney General  
Devin Nunes, Pres. Intelligence Advisory Board Chair  
Chris Wright, Secretary of Energy  
Steven Cheung, WH Communications Director  
Jason Gray, Chief Info Officer, USAID  
Janet Petro, NASA Director  
Thomas Sylvester Jr., Deputy Director, CIA  
Michelle King, Deputy Commissioner, SSA  
Frank Bisignano, SSA Commissioner

Next, I will be turning to the public and social media to shine the spotlight on Covista and everyone involved if this is the type of disregard for decency that I am receiving. I look forward to your prompt response and to your public clarification of where you stand with a rebranded institution built on alleged exploitation, or with the Black women and students whose lives and futures have been profoundly affected. As a man whose life has been forever altered by Covista's actions, as the plaintiff in *Cox v. Walden University*, and as someone who still believes Congress can do the right thing, I am asking you to choose differently.

Respectfully,

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