I want to share a few honest words.

In classes, I've chosen to hold students to real standards, because I believe that's what education is for. That choice at a public university has come at a cost, as I experienced threats and bullying while teaching that have affected me personally.

I understand why many instructors respond to this pressure by grading generously and asking less of students. I don't blame them. But I don't think that's what a good education looks like, and I'm not willing to do things that way.

To employers and admissions officers: A grade shows a result, not how much work went into it. If you want to know what a student can really do, the instructor's letter is where we tell you.

And to the students who worked hard and wanted to learn: you're the reason I care about this. You deserve an education that challenges you and serves you well in the future.