## Forward, Always Forward

This has been one of the hardest and most emotional chapters of my life. Between my personal challenges, my law school journey, and the weight of everything happening in the world, I've been forced to sit with truths that are heavy and uncomfortable. My heart aches with some of what I've come to understand — but I also know we can't walk back through the doors of the past. We learn, we grow, and we keep moving forward. Forward is the only way.

What hurts most is how much pain and injustice is still being ignored. Human slavery still exists — through trafficking, forced labor, exploitation — and war continues to destroy lives around the globe. These things are not just history; they're happening now, and too often we turn away. That silence, that denial, is another kind of harm.

I've also had to face the ways abuse shows up closer to home — in relationships, in conversations, in the way reality can be twisted. Manipulation, gaslighting, distortion — these wound us, too. And if we want to heal as people, and as a country, we need to take the poison out, not put more in.

But here's where I hold hope: healing is possible. It will take time, and it isn't easy, but it's worth it. Love and forgiveness, even when it's painful, are what will help us rise. I want the best for everyone — truly. But I've learned it's easier to walk with those who value truth and light than with those who try to deny or twist reality.

The truth is the truth. It may break our hearts, but it also sets us free. And if we hold on to it with love — not hate — as our guide, we can heal, we can grow, and we can create something better.