

Good morning committee. I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak once again on my brother's behalf.

I'd like to start my testimony with a baseline, to ensure that we are on the same page. The definition for the word "change" (which is a verb) is to "make (someone or something) different; to alter or modify". This is not the first time we have been here begging for ~~systemic~~ change. There ~~has~~ been some great ideas and suggestions, but not much as far as follow through.

To share a quick anecdote; prior to his passing, my brother had a phrase he would write on all of his school papers. He really looked up to service members, so I think that may be where he got it, but the phrase was, "to make peace, prepare for war."

This has been especially true through our experiences with SFM. While trying to ensure that no other family ~~gets~~ has to bury a child, we have met resistance every single step of the way and in every way imaginable.

Up to this point, I can't even get my testimony to exist outside of the pdf submitted (unless someone else says it on my behalf, evidently).

I now know better than to ask for justice, accountability, or transparency, but I still hope that things will change.

I hope that families like mine are taken into consideration.

I hope that no one else has to lose a child, brother, uncle, or friend.

I will do what I can from my end and follow through. Will you?