

****My Opening Statement****

Thank you to all the honorable representatives for taking the time to listen to me and my family as we present our concerns regarding the issues with the judicial system in the District of Columbia. I have shared a document outlining the events that occurred during the investigation, charges, trial, and conviction related to the murder of my grandson, Marty William McMillan Jr. The devastation caused by his murder has deeply affected my family and me, highlighting the urgent need for reform in our broken judicial system.

I never realized how flawed this system was until I became involved in the process surrounding a murder case. I was horrified by what I witnessed and how the system treats the families of murder victims like mine. It is shocking to see how easily some individuals who commit murder can return to the streets without facing adequate consequences. I now understand why people feel emboldened to kill without fear of repercussions.

I am truly grateful for what this administration is doing to bring these laws to light. It has been far too long since this issue has been addressed. My family has not received justice for the horrific murder of my grandson, who was shot seven times and killed at just 23 years old. His murderer, who was 40, was only charged with second-degree murder and may serve a total of seven years for my grandson's death, with five of those potentially served on probation. This is not justice at all, and these laws need to change to ensure that killers think twice before pulling the trigger. There is much more to the story that I do not have time to share, but I have attached it to my testimony.

Thank you,

Forlesia Cook

Grandmother of Marty William McMillan Jr.