

"Neighbor, Neighbor" from [Kairos Center](#)
([recording](#))

The version of this song originated in 2014, when organizer Avery Book heard an adaptation of the military cadence "What The Army Has Done To Me" at a Movement for Black Lives action in Vermont - "mama, mama can't you see/what the system's done to me." At this action he encountered an army veteran who heard in this adaptation a connection between the state violence he saw in war, and the state-sanctioned police brutality directed at marginalized communities. Reflecting on the movement for universal healthcare in Vermont, Book began to see politicians who deny citizens a right to adequate healthcare also as perpetrators of state violence. The song was then further adapted at an action taken to pressure Vermont's governor to fulfill a campaign promise to bring universal healthcare to the state, at which point the lyric was changed to "neighbor, neighbor can't you see," reflecting solidarity across movements and communities who suffer the results of political negligence and state-sanctioned violence.

Neighbor neighbor can't you see

Democracy is what we need

Neighbor neighbor can't you hear

No kings, no thrones, no tyrants here

Oh oh oh oh, tyranny has got to go

Oh oh oh oh, fascism has got to go

Neighbor neighbor can't you see

Due process is what we need

Neighbor neighbor can't you hear

Immigrants are welcome here

Oh oh oh oh, Ice raids have got to go

Oh oh oh oh, detention camps have got to go

Healthcare, research, global aid

Schools and SNAP and Medicaid

Neighbor neighbor can't you see

These cuts affect both you and me

Oh oh oh oh, the bullshit bill has got to go

Oh oh oh oh, the budget slash has got to go

Neighbor, neighbor can't you see

We're free to speak, to learn, to read

Neighbor, neighbor, can't you hear

We hold the 1st Amendment dear

Oh oh oh oh, censorship has got to go

Oh oh oh oh, intimidation's got to go

Ain't no way we're backing down

We're rising up, the time is now

Neighbor neighbor let's unite

'Cause we the people love our rights

Hey hey hey hey, we the people lead the way

Hey hey hey hey, we the people lead the way