



HOW TO GIVE COMPELLING TESTIMONY AT THE ND LEGISLATURE

General Tips and Tricks

Giving testimony is one of the most effective ways to educate legislators about the impact, either positive or negative, that proposed legislation might have. Legislators aren't always aware of all the implications a particular piece of legislation may have on their constituents.

1. **Stick to the Point** - your specific insight and information should be the main points of your testimony.
 2. **Be Specific** - include events, genuine feelings, and personal insights that clarify your main point.
 3. **Be Current** - focus on how this bill affects your work/life today.
 4. **Be Honest.**
 5. **Be Short** - your testimony should be no longer than 2 pages, and take no longer than 3-5 minutes to present.
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Written Testimony Outline

Source: Citizen Advocacy Center

1. Greetings to the Chair and committee
2. Identifying information - name, occupation (if applicable), location
3. Clear presentation of your position - state your position as "in support" or "in opposition" to the proposed bill and identify the bill by number (ex. HB 1369)
4. Factual arguments and data as evidence to support your position, if available
5. Personal story or anecdotes to demonstrate your position. *This is often the most powerful part.*
6. Conclusion - restate/review your position
7. Thank the committee

Presenting Oral Testimony

Source: Citizen Advocacy Center

1. Do not repeat points made by speakers ahead of you. If all the points you wanted to make have been made, tell the committee you agree with the testimony given by the preceding speakers and urge them to take appropriate action.
 2. Answer only those questions you can answer correctly, and answer as clearly and succinctly as you can. Offer to find the answers to questions you don't immediately have the answer to, and promptly get back to the committee members with the information.
 3. Do not argue with members of the committee or with people giving opposing testimony.
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