

Newspective

Working Towards A Fact-Based Future
By Students, For Students

Take Action Now: Testify in Front of your State Legislature to Advocate for your Beliefs.

In this toolkit, you are provided with the resources you need to **testify in front of your State Legislature both in-person under normal circumstances and virtually in the current pandemic.**

Testifying in front of State Legislature committees and general assemblies is an essential part of taking action as a youth, and advocating for your voice in government.

1. Find individual state guidelines on State Legislature website

- **What:** Each state tends to have different guidelines on how, where, and when to testify, especially with the current pandemic.
- **How:** [Use this resource to find your State Legislature's website.](#)

When you get to your State's website search keywords like **testifying** or search for the **Legislative schedule** to locate a specific bill you would like to testify for.

○ **Currently with the Pandemic**

- i. Many States are accepting video testimonies and written testimonies
- ii. Sign-ups can be found on your state website
 1. Search
 - a. Remote Legislative Testimony *Your State*
- iii. [BEST RESOURCE](#)
 1. The bottom of this resource allows you to search for your state and registration forms, online testifying guidelines, and other opportunities for remote public participation.

2. [How to write a Legislative Testimony](#)

- **Guidelines**
 - i. Usually about 1- 1.5 pages long
 - ii. Write bill number and name at the top of the page
 - iii. Write your name, date, and address
 - iv. Make the first sentence addressing the committee you are presenting to
 - v. Introduce yourself to the committee before you speak
 - vi. Explain the importance of the issue to you
 - 1. What is your personal connection to the issue?
 - 2. Do you know or work with people who will be affected by this bill?
 - vii. Explain why the legislators should support or oppose the bill.
 - 1. The personal touches to the testimony are important.
 - viii. Thank yous at the end

- **Sample Beginning**

Testimony in support of:
Bill S2771: Thomas Edison for State Inventor

Submitted by:
Rory Danieluk
Insert Address

Dear Sen. Turner, and members of the Wagering, Tourism, and Historic Preservation Committee,

My name is Rory Danieluk and I live in...

(Your story or personal experience or connection with the issue)

I urge you to support Bill S2771 so that...

3. Major Tips

- Be prepared
 - i. Have a testimony written
 - ii. Attend or watch previous recordings [here](#)
 - iii. Accurately read the bill
 - iv. [Verifying hearing details](#)
 - 1. Date
 - 2. Time
 - 3. Location

- Keep it straightforward and easy to follow
- Stick with what you know
- Practice confident public speaking
- Share personal stories/experiences
- Dress in professional attire (not distracting)
- Answer questions honestly (if asked any)
- Remember YOUR VOICE MATTERS

4. Other Useful Resources

- [Give Effective Legislative Testimony \(Handout\)](#)
- [Chapter 33. Conducting a Direct Action Campaign | Section 6. Using Personal Testimony | Main Section](#)
- [How to Testify at a Public Legislative Hearing](#)
- [Tips on Testifying Before a Legislative Committee](#)
- [Guidelines for Writing Legislative Testimony](#)
- [Guidelines for Testifying at Assembly Public Budget Hearings](#)