

Preparing Testimony on a Bill

Each sponsor of the bill must have written testimony on the bill and must present that testimony to the committee. Use the following questions/guidelines to prepare your testimony.

1. The sponsor (lobbyist) begins by saying, “Mr./Madame Chairperson, my name is _____ . Thank you for allowing me to appear before your committee today.”
2. The lobbyist will read the bill in its entirety to the committee.
3. After the bill is read, the lobbyist will read his/her testimony.
4. As you prepare your testimony, you should include the following:
 - a) The first line of your testimony should be “Mr./Madame Chairperson, members of the committee.”
 - b) Why is this bill needed? What is currently happening that you believe should be changed?
 - c) Use statistics to back up your proposal.
 - d) Use personal stories to support your position.
 - e) Explain any parts of the bills that may be misunderstood by the committee.
 - f) Explain why you chose the penalty.
 - g) Who will be directly impacted by this bill? How will this bill make society/our community a better/safer place?
 - h) Who might be opposed to this bill? Why? Why are they wrong?
 - i) End your presentation by asking the committee for their support. Thank them for their time and for their attention.
5. At the end of the testimony, the lobbyist says, “Mr./Madame Chairperson, I will stand for questions.”