

HOW TO TESTIFY

AT A TEXAS LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE HEARING

BEFORE THE HEARING



KNOW WHEN TO TESTIFY

Track bills, issue areas, & committee hearings by signing up for alerts at www.capitol.state.tx.us



MAKE SURE YOU CAN TESTIFY

Many committee hearings allow public testimony, but some only allow invited witnesses. Check the hearing notice!



PRACTICE YOUR SPEECH

Prepare 2-3 minutes of comments, and run through it a few times.

GETTING TO THE CAPITOL



PARKING NEAR THE BUILDING

There is a Visitor Parking Garage at 12th & Trinity. There's also metered street parking, but bring quarters!

GETTING TO THE CAPITOL

There are entrances on the north, south, east, & west sides of the Capitol. Don't be intimidated by the security check-in.



FIND THE KIOSKS

There are kiosks near the committee hearing rooms, and this is where you register to provide testimony.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO TALK

Keep in mind that the kiosks give you the option of registering support or opposition without providing testimony.



GET COMFORTABLE

Arrive early, but expect to stay late. The session is unpredictable - some hearings are short, but some can be very long.

IT'S YOUR TURN

BE NICE

Your testimony can be passionate, but always be respectful.

BE CONCISE

You may only have 2-3 minutes, so make it count!

BE PERSONAL

Say how legislation will impact you, your family, or your friends.

BRING COPIES

If providing written testimony, check to see how many printouts are required.

BE UNIQUE

Try not to repeat what other witnesses have said.

FOLLOW UP

Email committee members to provide additional info.