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.

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

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

BE UNIQUE
Try not to repeat what other witnesses have said.

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

FOLLOW UP
Email committee members to provide additional info.

YOU DID IT!