Texas AFT

HOW TO TESTIFY AT A TEXAS LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE HEARING

Before the Hearing

KNOW WHEN TO TESTIFY
Track bills, issue areas, and committee hearings by signing up for alerts at www.capitol.texas.gov

MAKE SURE YOU CAN TESTIFY
Many committee hearings allow public testimony, but some only allow invited witnesses. Check the notice!

PRACTICE YOUR TESTIMONY
Prepare your 2-3 minutes of comments and run through it a few times aloud.

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 IN THE BUILDING: There are entrances on the north, south, east, and west sides of the Capitol. There is security and metal detectors at all sides.

FIND THE KIOSKS: There are kiosks near the committee hearing rooms. This is where you register to provide testimony.

YOU DON’T HAVE TO TALK: 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 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.

@TexasAFT (512) 448-0130 info@texasaft.org https://www.texasaft.org