

Guidelines for Writing Legislative Testimony

1. A one-page testimony is good, but no longer than 1.5 pages. You will have a maximum of 3 minutes to talk if you are testifying in person. Focus on YOUR story.
2. On the top of the page, write the bill number and name. (For example, for House Bill 5577: An Act Requiring the Evaluation of the Costs and Benefits of Establishing Certain Commercial Gaming within the State of Connecticut.)
3. Write your name and address and date on the testimony such as Submitted by:
4. Your first sentence in the testimony should be addressing the members of the committee for that bill (example: Sen. Hartley, Rep. Perone, and members of the Commerce Committee for the gaming bill above).
5. After you address the Committee, start out your testimony again with your Name, the town you live in, your organization or group affiliation, and what bill name and number you are either supporting or opposing. Then write your testimony.
6. In the testimony, explain why this issue is important to you: What is your personal connection to the issue? Do you know or work with people who will be affected by this bill? Explain why the legislators should support or oppose the bill. The personal touches to the testimony are important.
7. Close the testimony by thanking them and reiterate your support for/against the bill.

Sample Beginning of Testimony

Testimony in support of:
House Bill 5577: An Act Requiring the Evaluation of the Costs and Benefits of Establishing Certain
Commercial Gaming within the State of Connecticut

Submitted by:
Michele Mudrick
125 Sherman Street
Hartford, CT 06105

Dear Sen. Hartley, Rep. Perone, and members of the Commerce Committee,

My name is Michele Mudrick and I live in...

[Your story or personal experience or connection with the issue]

I urge you to support House Bill 5577 so that the people of our state can learn the true social and economic costs associated with any additional casinos. Thank you for your consideration.