

Guidelines for Testifying

1. Introduce your self and say why you are here and who you are speaking for: (if you do not do this, the chair will interrupt you and make you do it, because these meetings are recorded):

Example: Chair X and members of the Committee, my name is Lonnie Johns-Brown and I am speaking today on behalf Quaker Voice in favor of House Bill X.

DO NOT spend your time providing your history with QV, what QV, your educational background etc. UNLESS you are an expert who has been asked to speak based on their professional expertise**

***if you are speaking on a bill that you have personal experience on, say the solitary confinement bill, and you have experienced solitary confinement OR have a family member who has, add that.)

2. Make two brief statements /and cited facts about why QV supports the bill.

Example: QV urges the committee to pass HB X because by eliminating bail for X crimes, it creates a fairer system, where a person's freedom, prior to trial, is not based on their ability to pay. (maybe cite a fact about how eliminating bail, for example, has not led to an increase in people not showing up for trials , for example:

According to research conducted by X foundation, the policy contained in HB X , will result in less repeat crime and less recidivism.

3. Conclusion:

Example: Thank you for the opportunity to testify and I look forward to the X committee voting HB X out of committee. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

***they may ask questions you really are not sure you know that answer too (actually they almost always ask questions we do not know the answers to).

Here is how to respond: I don't happen to have the information with me, but I will find it , and will share it with the committee and staff.

Don't guess, don't provide opinions that you are not very sure are the opinion of QV. Generally, I never share my opinion when speaking for an organization.