



Find this resource valuable? [Support our work!](#)

Share this toolkit: [bit.ly/OhioSenateTestimony](https://bit.ly/OhioSenateTestimony)

Testifying in a HOUSE committee? Use this toolkit instead: [bit.ly/OhioHouseTestimony](https://bit.ly/OhioHouseTestimony)

## Ohio **SENATE** Committee Testimony

In Ohio, you have the right to present in-person testimony **OR** written-only testimony for or against bills in Statehouse committees.

*(In-person testimony is preferred if possible)*

Has an Ohio Senate committee scheduled a hearing on a bill you care about? Follow this process:

### **HOW TO SUBMIT TESTIMONY** (in-person OR written-only):

#### 1.) Make sure the committee is accepting the type of testimony you want to submit.

- Types of testimony:
  - **Proponent** (Supporter)
  - **Opponent** (You oppose the full bill)
  - **Interested Party** (You have concerns about pieces of the bill but don't want to support or oppose it yet)
- If they aren't accepting your type of testimony at this hearing, they likely will at the next one!

#### 2.) Write your testimony

- See [testimony template below](#).

#### 3.) Upload your testimony to the Committee website – whether you're testifying in-person or not.

- Upload it at least 24 hours before the committee start time (if possible)
  - *Example: If the testimony starts at 3:00 pm on Wednesday, upload your testimony by 3:00 pm on TUESDAY*

#### 3.5) HOW TO UPLOAD your testimony to the Committee website

- <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/committees/senate-committees>
- Click on your bill's committee
- Click "meetings"
- Click the date of the hearing you're submitting testimony for
- Click "upload testimony"
- Fill out the witness information and upload your testimony
  - *Completing this witness info replaces the "witness slip" used by House committees*

(If you're submitting written-only testimony, that's it! You're done! You officially testified written-only. If you're testifying in-person, see below.)

#### 4.) Arrive at the Statehouse before the committee is scheduled to begin.

- You can park in [the basement garage underneath the Statehouse](#) or the [Columbus Commons Parking Garage](#)
  - Statehouse garage: Underneath the Statehouse, 1 Capitol Square, Columbus, 43215
  - Columbus Commons Underground Garage: 191 S. Third Street
  - Columbus Commons Main Garage: 55 E. Rich Street & 56 E. Main Street
- **NOTE:** You'll need to go through a metal detector when you arrive.
  - You'll put your bags, purse, phone, keys, and other items through a metal detector (similar to the airport but not as intense)
  - You will personally pass through a metal detector as well
- You can ask the security guards at the metal detector to direct you to the committee room where your hearing is being held.

#### 5.) Bring a printed copy of your testimony with you to read in front of the committee

- You **do not** have to read your testimony word for word! Many people don't!

#### 6.) You may also want to bring copies to hand to reporters – you can contact [reporters](#) ahead of time to let them know you (and your group) will be testifying!

#### 7.) AFTER YOU ARE FINISHED SPEAKING:

- **Legislators may ask you questions.** They are more likely to ask questions if you provide data/statistics or present yourself as having professional experience related to the bill. This can be awesome! But be prepared to back up your testimony!
- **After each question, try to** start your response with the words, "Through the Chair, to the Senator..."

## AFTER THE COMMITTEE:

After the committee is over, we also recommend taking some additional steps to increase the impact of your testimony:

- **Contact the committee members** (be polite!), remind them about your testimony, and offer to meet/speak with them to discuss the issue further.
  - [SPREADSHEET: State House & Senate CONTACT Information](#) (2025 - 2026)
    - Check out the tabs to find contact info for the committee where you testified
- **Find your testimony on the committee website**, and share it on social media!
  - Urge others to contact the committee too
  - [How to find testimonies online after a committee hearing](#)
    - All written and in-person testimonies are posted online and shareable

- **Create a video clip** of yourself testifying, and share it on social media!
  - Urge others to contact the committee too
  - **Slideshow** — [How to pull video clips from OhioChannel.org](#)
  - **Document** — [How to pull video clips from OhioChannel.org](#)

## TESTIMONY TEMPLATE:

Chairman/Chairwoman/Chairperson \_\_\_\_\_, Vice Chair \_\_\_\_\_, Ranking Member \_\_\_\_\_, and members of the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am [*basic bio about who you are*]. I am strongly opposed to (*or I strongly support*) [*Bill Number*].

*[Then tell them why! Make it short and sweet - a few paragraphs is perfect. Tell a personal story. Or explain why your job experience gives you this perspective on the bill. Maybe cite some statistics or case studies to back up your claims]*

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote [*NO/YES*] on this [*harmful/dangerous/important/life-saving/etc.*] bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

*[If you are testifying in-person]* I will now take any questions you may have.