

HOW TO TESTIFY

Head to [MathiasforIdaho.com/Testify](https://mathiasforIdaho.com/Testify) for more info!

Be sure to listen to the testimonies before you and notice any emerging themes. Make your testimony stand out by sharing how the policy personally impacts you.

What to Expect:

- 1. The committee chair will announce the specific bill up for discussion.**
- 2. The bill sponsor speaks first, then the Chair will open the floor to the public for testimony** (oftentimes, the Chair will alternate between supporters and opponents of the bill).
- 3. Check the agenda ahead of time to see when your bill is up, but know the Chair may change the order if necessary.**
- 4. All discussion goes through the Chair. You will begin by addressing the Chair and committee members:**

For example, if you were testifying before the House Education Committee and I asked you a question after you gave your testimony, you would answer by saying "Mr. Chair, Representative Mathias,..."

- 5. Give your testimony and don't forget to stick around for questions and submit your testimony in written form to have your statement on record.** Legislators may not ask any (especially if there is a lot of testimony).

This is your chance to talk directly to the policymakers. Be thoughtful and intentional with your testimony.

Registering doesn't guarantee you will testify. The Chair may limit public testimony.

CRAFTING YOUR TESTIMONY

- 1. Begin by addressing the Committee Chair and members:**

"Good afternoon, Madam Chair and members of the committee."

- 2. Introduce yourself: your name, address (for the public record), and your position:**

"My name is Jane Smith, I live at [Idaho city/town of residence], and I'm here to testify in favor of House Bill X."

- 3. Reference something in your background to connect why you care about the issue:**

"As an educator, I see every day how our children are going without the supplies they need."

- 4. Say what the bill will do and why the impact is good or bad:**

"This bill will provide the critical funding our classrooms and children need to be successful."

- 5. Wrap up by restating how you want the committee to vote. Offer to stand for any questions:**

"I urge you to vote to send this bill to the House floor with a Do Pass recommendation. Thank you. I'll stand for any questions from the committee."

If you need assistance or can't find what you need here, contact the Legislative Information Center:

Local: 208-332-1000

Hearing Impaired: 800-626-0471

Email: idleginfo@lso.idaho.gov

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