

COMING TO A PUBLIC HEARING

DRESS

Professionally dressed if possible. Neat always.

FOOD

It will be a long day. Bring snacks, but be discreet and quiet in the hearing room. Don't be digging in a crinkly chips bag.

Bring a beverage or 2.

ELECTRONICS

Bring chargers for your phones. Outlets are limited. In hearing rooms, they're located close to the doors and back walls. If you have an external battery, charge that and bring it too.

PARKING

See TEACH CT website. There is a free parking garage behind the LOB, there is metered parking on Oak Street and paid parking in the CEA building on Oak St. Daily fee there is about \$15.

SECURITY

Everyone enters on the Hungerford Street side. You'll go through a metal detector like in the airport. Build in time for this.

TESTIMONY SIGN UP

Testimony sign up takes place usually early in the morning -8 am- in the LOB lobby. If you aren't there to sign up at that time, go to the clerk's desk in the hearing room- usually to the right at the back, and request to sign up.

TESTIMONY TIPS

1. Write out your testimony so you can be prepared.
2. State your position clearly and early: "I'm Sally Smith and I oppose HB 123."
3. Outline: **CRESR EXAMPLE**

CONCISE STATEMENT: HB 5044 is unnecessary because there is no public health threat.

REASON: Further regulation is unnecessary and counter-productive.

EXAMPLES: Existing laws permit quarantine of sick individuals.

STATISTICS: The DPH data is inaccurate. Superintendents have stated this.

REQUEST: Please vote No on HB 5044.

4. **SPEAK THEIR LANGUAGE.**

Clerks and legislators are listening for code language. They have a limited time to process all of this. Don't get into philosophical statements UNLESS you can directly tie it to the bill.

Your testimony should use the language of the bill. "HB 5044, which is geared to keeping children safe, is ineffective to keep children safe because healthy children do not spread illness."

Listen to your opponents. What phrases are they using? Look to the wording of the statute and the stated purpose.

EG "We want to close the loopholes."

"This bill will not close the loopholes because..."

Or

"There are no loopholes because existing law addresses this. There is no perfect fix."