

Making the Best of Your Testimony

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**Association of Alaska School Boards
Advocates for Alaska's Youth**

Email

- Email is very effective – and appreciated by busy committees.
- It can be as long as you want and you do not need to wait for your turn.
- You are able to logically arrange your testimony and edit to provide clarity.
- Your email testimony will be placed into the record.



In Person

- Always identify yourself and who you represent.
- Always address all testimony or responses through the committee chair.
- Limit oral testimony to three minutes.
- Limit the number of items in your testimony (normally two points).
- Have a written copy of your testimony in front of you.
- Provide a written copy of your testimony to the committee upon closing your remarks.



Telephone

- This is the most difficult method of testifying. No sense of committee members body language or how your testimony being received.
- You will call in and be placed into a “waiting line” to testify. It may be quite some time before you are called.
- If the committee runs out of time you may not get your opportunity to testify.
- Limit oral testimony to three minutes.



Telephone cont.

- Always address all testimony or responses through the committee chair.
- Limit the number of items in your testimony (normally two points).



Legislative Information Office (LIO)

- Sign in when you arrive and indicate whether you want to testify or merely observe.
- You will call in and be placed into a “waiting line” to testify. It may be quite some time before you are called.
- Some committee meetings are only audio and some are audio/video.
- You will be muted and when called on to testify will talk into the speaker system.



LIO cont

- Always address all testimony or responses through the committee chair.
- Limit oral testimony to three minutes.
- In some locations there may be a “time lapse” associated with satellite hop.



Engage others to spread the message

- Share the call to action with others in your community (Tribal, PTA, business leaders, Borough Assembly, City Council, parents, student government, etc.).
- Encourage others to testify in support of public education



Other Useful tips

- Know your committee chairs – their district, their inclinations, connections to your purpose
- Study the committee members to whom you are presenting, tie testimony to their concerns whenever possible
- Understand where you are on the legislative calendar and in the legislative process – early or late in the session, committee of first referral, finance committee, committee of the whole, etc.



Other Useful tips cont.

- When preparing your testimony, begin with the end in mind – what is your overall goal or purpose
- Tie your testimony to specific Alaska or legislative concerns whenever possible, use local color and data
- Emphasize constituent connections if possible



Thank you!

- Questions?
- Activity



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The Legislature has an amendment that would provide a one time grant, outside the BSA, for CTE using the Foundation Formula to distribute the funds

- Wary of hiring staff with one time funding.
- Unable to use the funding for district match funds for grants as most grants are multi year.
- CTE may not be our top priority.
- Establishing a CTE program in one year is near impossible (staff, space, curriculum, equipment).
- Unable to plan for future years with one time funding.
- The CTE grant will need to be supplemented with already already tight district funds to create a viable program.

