

Giving Testimony, Written or Oral, re: Bill S.186

Testimony can be given in person or in writing

Written Testimony

Bring written testimony to the Hearing. It will be read by most Committee members and their staff after the hearing. It is very important to keep it brief. If it is more than two pages, start with a one-page Summary.

Oral Testimony

Personal testimony is limited to three (3 minutes) per person. They may use a timer and cut people off, so practice your key points and stick to the limit.
DO NOT read your written summary.

Break your testimony down into three sections.

1. Greeting and Introduction

- Begin your testimony by greeting the chair or chairs of the committee and thanking them for the opportunity to speak
- State your name, where you are from, your business name, and profession
- State your position “against” the proposed bill, S.186, An Act Regulating Bodyworks

2. Body of Testimony Statement

- Keep it very brief and direct. Your testimony should not be longer than three (3) minutes
- Summarize your position
- State or list the reasons for taking your position. Legislators are not always aware of how a particular piece of legislation will affect specific groups – the elderly or disabled, women, etc.. Include any facts, figures, statements, and experiences to support your position. You are trying to give lawmakers some insight as to the effects the legislation will have on their constituents. You can either choose to tell your own story (your personal experience) or address how the will would affect your family, colleagues, or the public in general (what the bill would mean to to the public.) Ask yourself the following questions. Why is the issue important to me? What do you want to change about this issue? How would your life or those you might represent be different if this issue were to change?

- Do not repeat points made by speakers ahead of you. If all the points you wanted to make have been made, tell the committee that you agree with the testimony given by the preceding speakers and urge them to take appropriate action.
3. Closing Your Testimony Statement
- Restate your position at the end of your testimony.
 - Thank the committee for the opportunity to speak again.
 - Be prepared to answer questions from committee members about your testimony or your position on the bill. These are designed to gain additional information. If you do not know the answer to a question, be honest and do not answer the question. Instead, tell the members you will send a written answer to the committee and then follow through. Your response to a question is always through the Chair. For example, Chairpersons Feeney and Chan, the answer to your question is....
4. Completing Testimony
- After you complete your testimony, give the Committee Secretary enough copies for all members of the Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure (17 copies).

Additional Information

- Please be prepared to arrive at the Hearing Room at least a half-hour before it begins and to stay until it ends. Legislators get to testify whenever they show up. You may be “next in line” but a legislator can be taken ahead of you. It’s normal procedure.
- The Committee Chairs pride themselves on being fair and neutral. Always address them and the committee directly and respectfully, never address anyone in the audience and do not address opponents in the audience even if they have been inflammatory in their own testimony.
- Finally, this is your chance to tell your story or the story of someone important to you. In this case, you are the expert – the Committee will learn from you and most will be very receptive to hearing from you. Use the few minutes wisely, be brief, be open and honest. And thank them for their time.