

**Eagleton Institute of Politics | Science and Politics Program** Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey 191 Ryders Lane New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901-8557 www.eagleton.rutgers.edu/science

## Bridge Builders: A Guide to Effective Committee Testimony

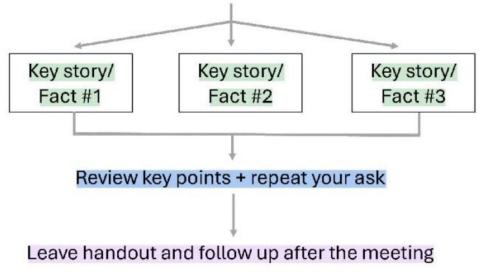
What? So What? What Now?

- Did you introduce yourself? Provide your name, title, and affiliation to establish credibility and help legislators understand your background.
- Did you credential yourself? Briefly highlight your relevant qualifications, experience, or research to demonstrate why your perspective is valuable.
- Did you express your position clearly, concisely, and succinctly? Clearly articulate your stance on the bill in a concise and compelling manner.
- Was your testimony engaging and accessible? Use plain language, avoid jargon, and consider incorporating a brief story, example, or data point to make your testimony memorable.
- Did you connect your expertise to the legislation? Explicitly explain how your knowledge and experience relate to the bill and why it matters in the policymaking process.
- Did you stay within the time limit? Keep your remarks focused and succinct to ensure your key points are heard and respected within the allotted time.

## Introduce yourself

Explain why you're there + your concrete "ask:"

- I am here to ask you to support/oppose/co-sponsor/introduce X Policy.
- There is a problem with Y Policy that affects many people in your district.
- I work on Z Research that is relevant to Y Policy and shows how we can fix it.
- By supporting/opposing/co-sponsoring/introducing X Policy, you can fix the problem with Y.



https://mitcommlab.mit.edu/be/commkit/congressional-hill-meeting/