

Instruction Sheet for Written and Oral Testimony

Updated 4/25/25

Remember which bill you are testifying on, S.210 for Senate and H. 1278 for House. When speaking, remember to say the right ones!

If you would like help writing or practicing your testimony, or coming up with ideas for what to say in it, please reach out to Destiny Maxam at dmaxam@dpcma.org or 617-804-5329

Testifying In Person (Oral Testimony)

- We encourage you to come to the state house to testify in person if you can. Having lots of people in one room supporting the same bill can make a big impression on the committee. Of course, we know that's not possible for everyone. Testifying virtually is usually offered and might be more accessible for you.
- Oral testimony should be no longer than 3 minutes when read out loud. Please time yourself while creating your testimony.
 - A 3-minute speech is about 400-450 words for the average speaker, but everyone speaks at different speeds, so practice out loud at home and time yourself.
 - If you feel you have more to say than you have time for, you can submit a longer version as written testimony. See below for instructions.
- Focus on your personal story, including the details and how it impacted you. Remember to keep your points concise and brief, while the statements impactful. See attached document for a sample template.

Written

- A written testimony is allowed to be slightly longer than an oral testimony. If you aren't sure what you want to say, please use the attached template and fill out the bracketed sections.
- A written testimony will be accepted until the committee takes action on the bill. While we don't know officially when that will be just yet, we encourage you to get started writing your testimony and have it ready for submission when the time comes.
 - If you'd like help writing your testimony, please reach out to Destiny at dmaxam@dpcma.org to set up a meeting.
- **You can submit *both* oral and written testimony and we highly encourage both!**