

Providing feedback on bills virtually can be done in one of three ways:

1. Signing up to testify “remotely” via a Zoom link;
2. Providing written testimony which will become part of the official record; and
3. Being available to committee members and stating a position (with no comments).

REMOTE: To participate “remotely,” people will be allowed to sign up as soon as the bill has been scheduled for a public hearing and signups will close one hour prior to the committee hearing. Once you sign up, look for an email with a link to participate. While signing up does not guarantee you’ll testify, you should follow the prompts in the email you receive about testifying and be ready to adjust the length of your remarks based on comments from the committee chair. Submitting written testimony through the portal is allowed up to 24 hours after the public hearing.

- Instructions for [How to Testify in Committee](#) and [Testifying in a Virtual Committee Meeting](#)
- [House Committee Sign-In Here](#) and [Senate Committee Sign-In Here](#)
- All committee meetings will be televised by TVW and can be found on the day of at tvw.org or in the TVW archives.

You may always testify on behalf of yourself, but in order to testify or comment on behalf of WSPTA, you must have approval from the WSPTA Advocacy Director in advance. Any questions, please contact the [WSPTA Advocacy Director](#).

Based on last session’s experience, here are some best practices for the 2023 session:

- After signing up for “remote” testimony, you will be emailed a unique link to the committee meeting.
- For the most part, committees asked speakers for shorter testimony (with a clock counting down in the background), so prepare a two-minute, 90-second, and 60-second version of testimony.
- Make sure you are using the Washington State PTA [virtual background](#) when you are testifying on behalf of Washington State PTA.
- Check that your Zoom name shows as your actual name if you are using a work or student account to make it easier for staff to find you when they need to elevate you to a panelist in order to testify.
- When you join the meeting, you will be an attendee in a webinar format. When it is close to your turn to testify, you will be elevated to a panelist. It may take up to a minute and your screen might blank for a few seconds while you are being elevated.
- When you are elevated to a panelist turn on your microphone and video when it is your turn to speak.

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- Do not disconnect from the hearing until after the chair has asked committee members if there are any questions and dismisses you from the hearing. Staff will return you as an attendee to the webinar once you are done testifying.
 - Even if you have a link to testify, the committee time may run out and you may not be able to testify. This time includes committee staff briefings on the bills up for public hearing, the time getting testifiers “on deck,” and the time lapses before people start speaking.
 - If you are unable to testify, you can submit your remarks through the “written testimony” link up to 24 hours after the committee hearing starts. Submitted or “written” testimony is limited to 5,000 characters, including spaces and lines. You may submit any personal testimony yourself. Washington State PTA will submit any official written testimony, but if you are interested in helping us craft the message, we appreciate the input!