

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 (this will be done by the Legislative Consultant); and
3. Stating a position of Pro or Con (with no option for comments).

During legislative session, the WSPTA Advocacy Committee meets weekly and will review the upcoming calendar for bills that require WSPTA voice through one of the three ways listed above. You may be asked to testify on behalf of WSPTA – please follow these steps for an effective testimony.

REMOTE: To participate “remotely,” people are allowed to sign up as soon as the bill has been scheduled for a public hearing. Signups 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.

The following are provided by the state legislative website:

- 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 2024 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.**
- Committee chairs will usually hear from a panel of in-person testifiers and then a panel of virtual testifiers. They will notify you when you are “on deck,” i.e., coming up next.
- Make sure you are using the Washington State PTA [virtual background](#) when you are testifying on behalf of Washington State PTA.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.
- 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. The time set aside for a public hearing on a bill 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, please notify the Advocacy Director at ptaadvocacydir@wastatepta.org and Legislative Consultant Marie Sullivan at legconsultant@wastatepta.org. We will submit your testimony to the committee on behalf of Washington State PTA.