

https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/OLIS_help/Pages/how-to-testify.aspx

The above linked “How To Testify” page from the Oregon Legislative Information System has the exact technical information, and the information below is to give emphasis to certain points with some additional information.

Bear in mind that all testimony is public and retrievable through the OLIS system. Audio and video recordings are available and archived on the OLIS site, and written testimony can easily be retrieved as well.

First, registering to testify. Use the instructions for registering from the “MEASURE OVERVIEW page” (Figure 1 on the linked page).

1. Open the linked bill overview page below that you want to testify on and click on the “Register To Testify” button center right near the top:

SB171

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2025R1/Measures/Overview/SB171?pubDate=2025-01-17-14-16>

HB 2467

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2025R1/Measures/Overview/HB2467?pubDate=2025-01-17-12-51>

2. Follow the instructions and fill out the registration form. A confirmation screen will appear. The system will send you an email.
3. Ideally, it will be good to testify on both versions of the bills at least via written testimony. Even though they are the same, each chamber’s committee members (or their staff) look at the testimonies for their own bill, and they count the total number for and against. I believe some view those totals for helping them decide how much support there is to vote “Yay” or vote “Nay.” So, registering for both chamber’s bills and submitting the same written testimony, each modified for which committee’s members you are addressing, makes for the most influence to get these bills defeated.

Next, how to testify remotely, in person, and in writing:

For all forms of testimony, first address the committee with “Chair (or Co-Chair for each co-Chair) _____, Vice-chair _____, and __ (committee name)_____ members.”

Then, state your name, role (e.g. relative; friend; public citizen; organizational role if you are representing one) and/or the name of your organization if applicable, and whether you support, oppose, or are neutral about the bill. Then, proceed with your testimony.

1. To testify remotely, use the instructions for **“IF YOU REGISTER TO TESTIFY REMOTELY”** half way down the linked OLIS page (at the top of this page) for either by video **“joining the meeting using an MS Teams link”** or by phone **“joining the meeting by phone.”**
 - If you testify using video, MS Teams often asks if you want to download the MS Teams app or use your internet browser with temporary access to MS Teams. It is your choice, and it depends on if you want a new application/program on your device using memory space, or if you just want to use the temporary access via internet browser and save your device storage memory.
 - Testifying by phone is pretty clear, but you have to be ready to quickly enter 6*(star/asterisk) to unmute when your name is called.

2. To testify in person, use the OLIS instructions linked at the top of this document and scroll down to **“IF YOU REGISTER TO TESTIFY IN PERSON”** which is pretty clear.
 - The security process entering the building is pretty much like the airport or other secure institutions. I use a plastic bag to put all my “pocket” items into before I even enter the building so I can just place the bag in the scanning container quickly and move to the body scanner more smoothly. They recently have also been asking belts be removed, but not shoes.

- The help desk is not immediately identifiable when you are done with security, so if you need it, just ask the security folks who are helpful.
- However, you can identify the meeting room for the hearing from the OLIS bill's page by opening up "Scheduled Events" at the bottom, and then locating the hearing day/time link on the right of that page, clicking and seeing the page with the meeting room number.
- The meeting room numbers are located to the right of the room entry, and it also has the room's hearings schedule posted for that day.
- Arrive early to the room, and when you enter look for a table with clipboards having sign-in forms for you to enter your name and what position you are taking on the bill. Then, grab a seat, or in some cases when there are more people than seats, there will be a designated overflow room or area with screens for watching the proceedings. Be alert to get into the hearing room for your testimony when your name is called if you are in the overflow area.
- **Do not go to the overflow area without FIRST entering the hearing room proper and signing in for testimony.**

3. To testify in writing, OLIS will provide a format for you to enter your information and text, or you can submit a .pdf or .doc. (see next paragraph) For your own document, put at the beginning the date and bill number, and begin the text of your testimony with your name, role, and organization if you are representing one, then addressing the committee members and stating your position on the bill. Then enter the text of your testimony and conclude with something like "Thank you for allowing me to testify....."

You can directly hand a copy of your testimony to the hearing legislative assistant in the hearing room, or you can submit your testimony on the OLIS system. For electronic submission, go the bill's Measure Overview page (links near the top of this document), click on "Submit Testimony" right side near the top, and follow the directions. Right now there are no directions when you click on "Submit Testimony," only a message saying the bill has not been

scheduled yet. I would recommend that you use the “e-Subscribe” function at the top of the bill page to the far right so you will be alerted as soon as the bill is scheduled by email, and you can then have the maximum time for submitting your bill. You will have until 48 hours after the hearing to still submit in writing.

I will paste below a link to a written testimony of mine from a past session. (It is ideally too long, but it was about increasing our community’s direct involvement in state decision-making.)

Senate Bill 432 - Work Session scheduled.

03/17/2023 03:17 PM PDT

Requires Oregon Health Authority to develop, implement and administer program to support consumer engagement efforts aimed at increasing and optimizing consumer involvement in planning and decision-making surrounding the access to, and the delivery of, behavioral health services in this state.

My testimony:

[https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2023R1/Downloads/
PublicTestimonyDocument/57938](https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2023R1/Downloads/PublicTestimonyDocument/57938)