

How to Stay Informed – Useful Websites

Ohiochannel.org

- Watch House and Senate session live, as well as some committees.

Ohiohouse.gov & Ohiosenate.gov

- Find your Representative and Senator, including contact information
- View House and Senate Committee pages and schedule

Legislature.ohio.gov

- Primary place to look up legislation, check status of all legislation, etc.
- Find the schedule of when the House and Senate are in session

Contact your Legislator – Sample Script

Hi, my name is [YOUR NAME] and I am a constituent of Senator/Rep [ELECTED OFFICIAL'S NAME].

I am calling to ask Senator/Rep [ELECTED OFFICIAL LAST NAME] to support [BILL NUMBER] which [EXPLAIN WHAT THE BILL DOES].

[EXPLAIN WHY THE ISSUE IS IMPORTANT TO YOU – TELL YOUR STORY] Do you know Senator/Rep [ELECTED OFFICIAL LAST NAME] position on this bill?

****If the call goes to voicemail, remember to leave your phone number. If you would like someone to call you back, make the request****

Submit Testimony on Legislation – Sample Testimony

Chairman/woman _____, Vice Chair _____, Ranking Member _____, and members of the _____ Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is _____. I am [BASIC BIO ABOUT WHO YOU ARE]. I am strongly opposed to (or I strongly support) [BILL NUMBER].

[THEN TELL THEM WHY! MAKE IT SHORT AND SWEET - A FEW PARAGRAPHS IS PERFECT. TELL A PERSONAL STORY. OR EXPLAIN WHY YOUR JOB EXPERIENCE GIVES YOU THIS PERSPECTIVE ON THE BILL. MAYBE CITE SOME STATISTICS OR CASE STUDIES TO BACK UP YOUR CLAIMS]

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote [NO/YES] on this [HARMFUL/DANGEROUS/IMPORTANT/LIFE-SAVING/ETC.] bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify. I will now take any questions you may have.

NOTES:

- Email your testimony to the Committee Chair's office – whether you are testifying in person or not.
- You will need to submit/email your testimony with a witness slip. When you send in your testimony, the aide will send you one to complete.
- Try to submit your testimony to the Chair's office at least 24 hours prior to the start of the committee.
- Bring a printed copy to read in front of the committee.