



# TexProtects

The Texas Association for  
the Protection of Children



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Photo provided by Richard Sharum.

## Tips on Testifying

### Preparing for Verbal Testimony

- Plan for 3 minutes (Rehearse in advance).
- Thank Chair and Members for the opportunity to speak with them.
- State your name, organization / role, who/ how many you represent.
- Clearly state your position.
- Summarize / highlight your written testimony.
- Add a personal touch – a story / a connection.
- Request support of your position: law/bill/ funding.
- Thank them again.
- Offer to answer any questions.

### Tips For Testifying

- Dress Appropriately/ Professionally
  - Low key is best - Don't distract from message
- 80% Communication is Non-Verbal:
  - Rehearse: Stay Calm and Confident
  - Speak clearly
  - Eye Contact Important - Don't read
- Be Polite, Honest and Don't Argue!
- If you don't know the answer, admit it, and tell them you will get back to them. Compliment the question.
- Not a debate! Smile!
- Compliment them on their objection: Make solution feel like it's theirs! (Glad you brought that up).
- Don't overstate your position or the problem.

**Don't forget to register to testify!**

## Preparing Written Testimony

Your Name  
Organization  
Street Address  
City, ST ZIP  
Phone  
Email Address

Committee Name  
Subject: (or bill #)  
Date

Position:  
Problem: (Use facts and data.  
Comparisons are helpful.)  
Solution: (3 or more factual  
supporting points.)

Ask them for support.  
Thank the committee.

- Written testimony can be submitted in lieu of verbal testimony.
- Submit written testimony after verbal to give more details.
- 1-3 pages (check w/ clerk to see how many copies needed)
- Check with clerk about submitting in advance or upon arrival.
- Don't forget to sign a witness card.

## Be Part of the Solution...Get Involved!

Join TexProtects!

Abused children need each voice

E-mail Pamela McPeters

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We are dedicated to providing you:

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You have the opportunity to shape  
2017 legislation