

Testimony: prepare, deliver & follow-up

SUPPORT | ENGAGE | ALIGN



Purpose of a public hearing

- The purpose of a public hearing is to educate and inform a committee of the Legislature regarding bills it is considering. People testify at hearings for various reasons, which usually include one or more of the following:
 - To describe the purpose and effect of a bill. This kind of testimony is typically provided by the author of the bill, though it is sometimes given by a representative of a state agency or advocacy group that worked with the author to develop the bill.
 - To express support for or opposition to a bill. Most speakers will indicate a position on the bill. However, some will speak “for information only, neither for nor against.”

Purpose of a public hearing - continued

- To provide information about a bill that the committee or author may not know. This information may include:
 - Further background information and context regarding the bill.
 - An explanation of how the bill affects the speaker or others, individually.
 - An explanation of what might be unintended consequences of the bill.
 - To suggest improvements to a bill. Suggestions may be general ideas or may be specific recommendations of how the wording of the bill should be changed.

Providing Testimony At Committee Hearing

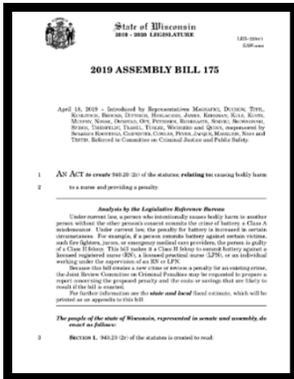
Preparation

- Know the legislative bill **Workplace Violence Against Nurses AB 175 and companion bill SB 163**
- Review and know the important talking points
- Prepare written testimony
 - **Begin with who you are and what you do/did.**
 - **Thank the Committee Chair for holding a hearing on AB 175 and companion Bill 163.**
 - Committee chairs: Assembly Chair : Rep. John Spiros,
 - Senate Chair Senator Van Wanggaard
 - **Thank the members of the committee for their time**
 - **Assembly Committee: Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety**
 - **Senate Committee: Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety**
- Make copies for each committee member
- If you are one of the committee members constituent contact his/her office letting them know that you will be testifying

Nurse Workplace Violence Legislation

Assembly Bill 175

Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice & Public Safety



Committee Members:

- Rep. Spiros, Chair (R-Marshfield)
- Rep. Sortwell, VC (R-Two Rivers)
- Rep. Ott (R-Mequon)*
- Rep. Steffen (R-Green Bay)
- Rep. Horlacher (R-Mukwanago)*
- Rep. Duchow (R-Delafield)

- Rep. Novak (R-Dodgeville)
- Rep. Schraa (R-Oshkosh)
- Rep. Krug (R-Nekoosa)
- Rep. Crowley (D-Milwaukee)
- Rep. Spreitzer (D-Beloit)
- Rep. Emerson (D-Eau Claire)
- Rep. Stubbs (D-Madison)
- Rep. McGuire (D-Kenosha)*

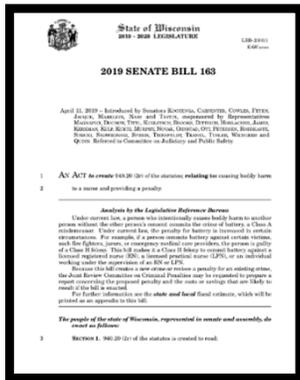
* *Attorney*

Public Hearing **Wednesday 9/18 State Capitol 11:00 am**

Nurse Workplace Violence Legislation

Senate Bill 163

Senate Committee on Judiciary & Public Safety



Committee Members:

Sen. Van Wanggaard, Chair (R-Racine) – Retired Law Enforcement

Sen. André Jacque, Vice-Chair (R-DePere)

Sen. Alberta Darling (R-River Hills)

Sen. Fred Risser (D-Madison) - Attorney

Sen. Lena Taylor (D-Milwaukee) - Attorney

Public Hearing Scheduled: **9/17/19 10:00 am Rm. 411 South State Capitol**

Providing Testimony At Committee Hearing

Hearing Day

- Dress in business attire
- Review committee hearing agenda
- Fill out public hearing form
 - Name or number of the legislative bill
 - Your name and home address
 - Indicate if you are testifying and “in support” or “in opposition”
 - Give this to hearing committee staffer/page
- When called on to testify, provide copies of your testimony to the staffer/page

Waiting To Testify

- Silence cell phone
- Restrain from conversations
- When the bill is up for testimony
 - Listen to what others have to say
 - Take notes and strategize your counter-points to opposing views
 - Prior to your being called on, try to confer with lobbyist to determine if you need to refute any of opposing views
 - When you are called on to testify be ready to avoid repeating what has already been said but be prepared to tell your story to provide illustration to support previous points

Providing Your Testimony

- Testifying
 - Describe the purpose of the bill and what the bill does for patients/consumers
 - Tell your story
 - Be Brief (under 5 minutes) and try not to read a statement
 - Use words such as “I agree with the previous speakers point on ...” rather than repeating points
 - Describe why you disagree with point(s) made by previous speaker
 - Summarize your remarks at the end
 - Ask for their support and thank them

Refer to Sept 10 Webinar for more testimony tips

Answering Committee Questions Following Testimony

- When you are called on testify
- You may be asked questions
- Think about your answer
- Remain polite – avoid nursing jargon and make this a teachable moment
- Refer to your position or personal experience or other related talking points that support your answer to the question

Post-Testimony

- Stay around and listen to the rest of the testimony
- If your legislator is on the committee he/she may want to talk to you about the issue.
 - Be willing to discuss or clarify
 - You may want to schedule a follow-up meeting
- Try to debrief with the lobbyists and colleagues
- Give yourself time to reflect on the strengths of your testimony and what you may want to do differently next time.

Thank you!!!