



Providing testimony for the Indiana General Assembly

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Why do legislators hear testimony?

- Public testimony at a hearing is the opportunity to be heard directly by the decision makers and potentially influence the outcome of votes.
- This is a powerful opportunity to shape the outcome of policy and share your organization's perspective on a piece of legislation.
- Giving compelling testimony can spark debate and sway the opinions of legislators who are on the fence about an issue.
- This is an opportunity to share data, stories, and tell legislators how legislation will affect their constituents.



Who do legislators want to hear from?

- People with lived experience
- Experts with data
- Constituents who will be affected by legislation
- Businesses who work with/on behalf of an affected population.
- Organizations that will be impacted by legislation
- People like YOU who care about an issue!



What do legislators want to hear?

- Your stories or the stories of people you know.
- Important data regarding the bill.
- Your expertise
- Your experiences
- The impact this legislation has on you or the people you serve.



When it is your turn to testify...

1. Address the committee chair, members, and introduce yourself.

"Good morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. My name is _____ and I am _____ (job title) at _____ (your organization).
I am asking you to (support/oppose) _____.

2. Share why this is an important issue for you.

- include a personal story either about yourself or someone you know.
- Add data or other information that helps make your case.



When it is your turn to testify...

3. Discuss the impact of the bill.

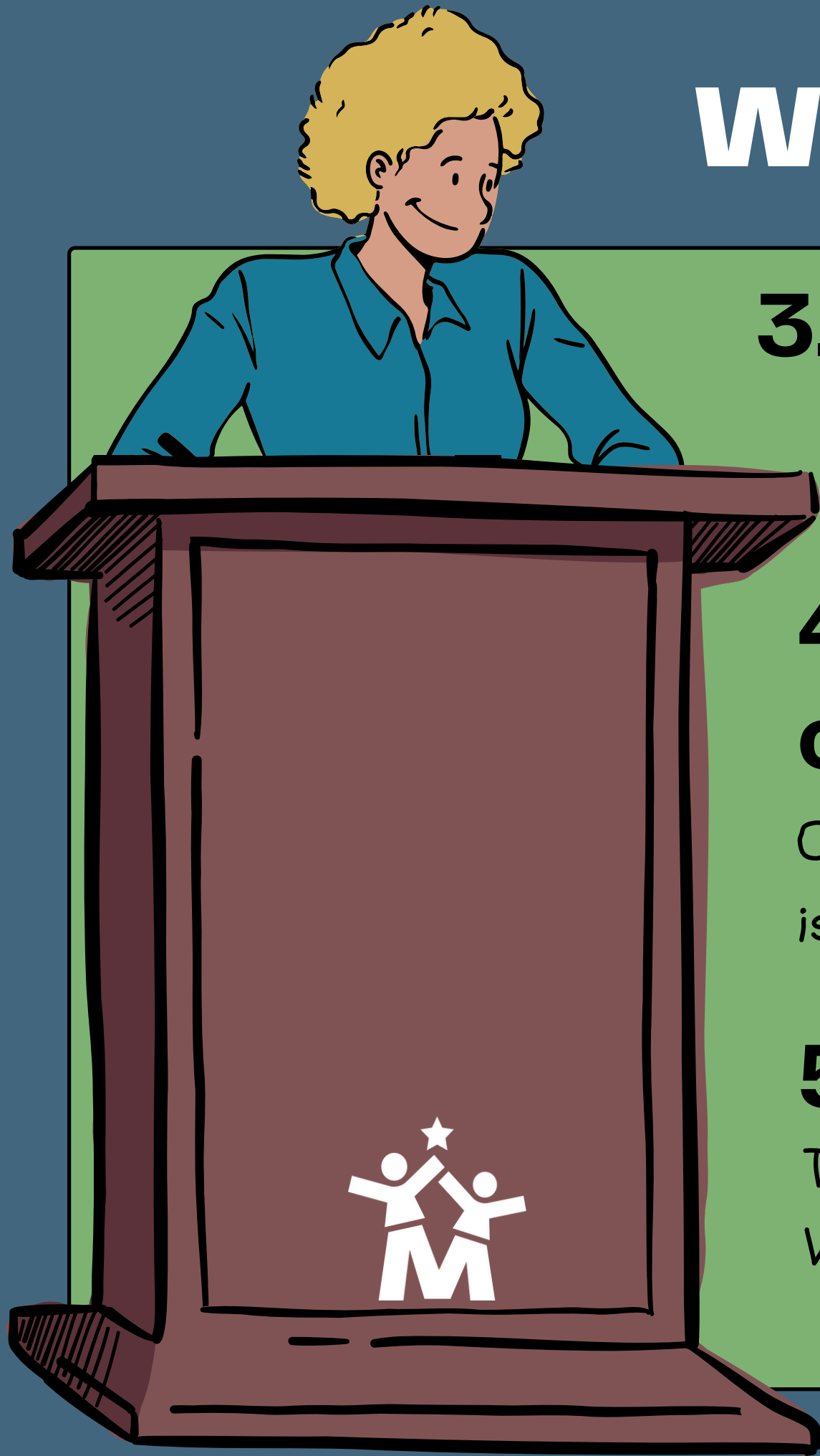
Tell legislators why you feel this bill would help or hurt the issue and why you feel legislators should vote in support or opposition.

4. Close with a thank you and a reminder of your stance.

Close by saying "thank you for considering my opinion on this important issue and I hope that you will vote in support (or opposition) of this bill."

5. Questions

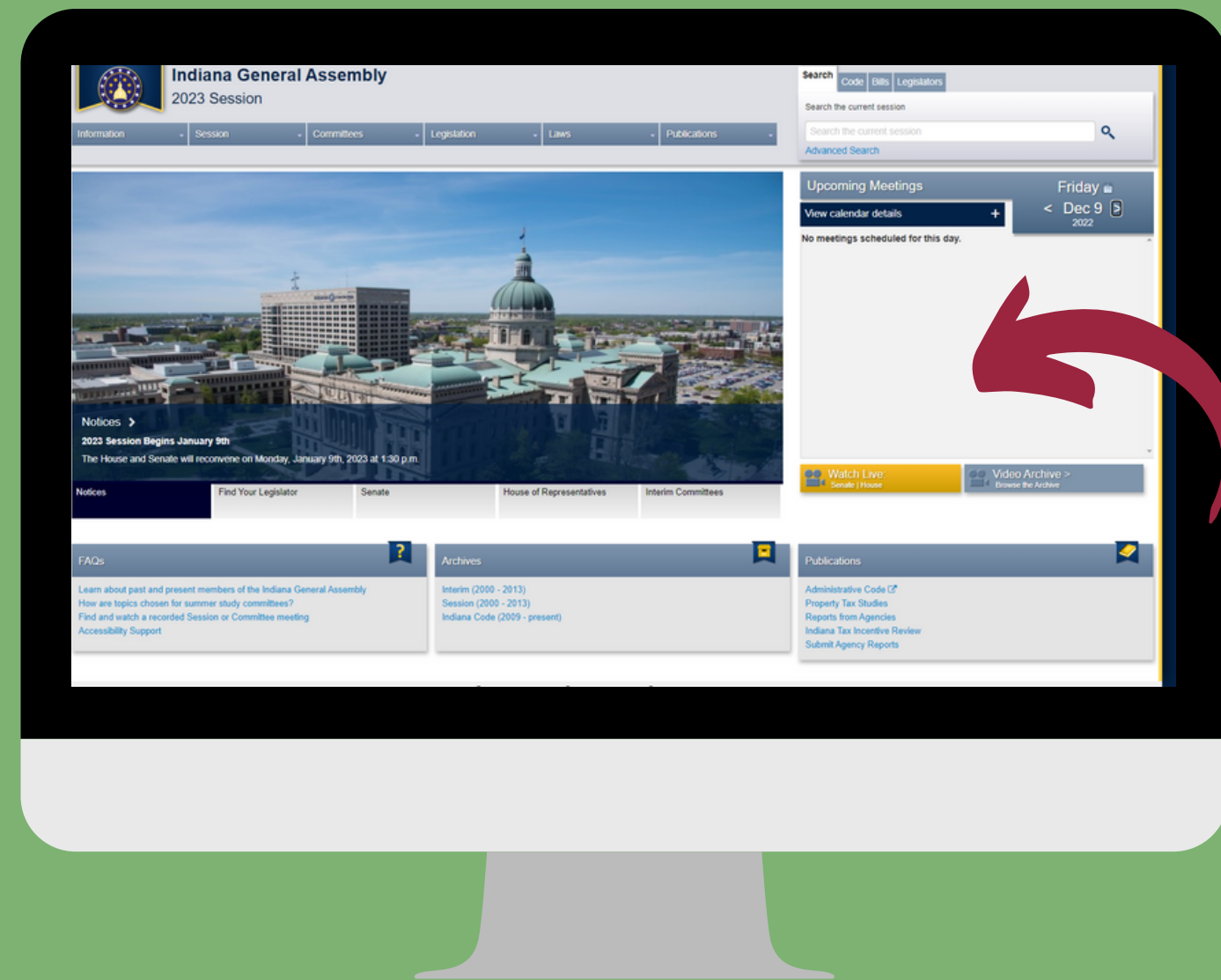
The committee chair will ask committee members if they have any questions. Wait for questions-- if none, you can go back to your seat.



How to provide testimony:



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- Look at the calendar to see when committees meet.
- Look to see if the bill you are tracking is scheduled to be heard in committee.
- The day of the committee hearing (starting at 12:01AM), go to the committee page to sign up to testify.
- Link will be on committee page.
 - Enter your name, organization (if applicable), bill you want to testify on, and if you support, oppose, or are neutral on the bill.
- If you do not sign up online, you can alternatively sign up to testify once you arrive at the committee hearing. In the front of the room, legislators will put out testimony slips that you can fill out and turn in to add your name to the list. Be sure to arrive early if you use this option.



Tips for successful testimony

- Keep it short!
- Show up on time.
- Be patient!
- Follow up via email with your contact information.
- Stay in touch!

Thank You!

