

Tips for Joint Finance Written Testimony

You don't have to be a tobacco control expert to provide written testimony as a part of the Joint Finance process. What's important is sharing your personal story with members of the Joint Finance Committee.

Written testimony should have the same "ingredients" as spoken testimony (search for "It's Like a Sandwich" in tobwis.org/resources). If your testimony is educational AND you are representing your work or organization, you can put it on organizational letterhead. If you are also providing spoken testimony, your written testimony does not have to be exactly the same, but you may want to focus on the same key points or messages.

Written Testimony Example

Month XX, 20XX

Dear Chairpersons and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jane Smith and I am a mom from Janesville. I want to tell you about how tobacco and nicotine products are still a problem in Wisconsin, especially for our youth. When I was in fifth grade, my best friend and I snuck into the woods to try smoking. Lucky for me, I gagged. That was the end of it. When I saw my friend again at a class reunion, she was still smoking.

My daughter, Kate, starts middle school next year. That's the time kids are most vulnerable to starting to use tobacco, especially e-cigarettes. I wish I could say with certainty that Kate is not going to use tobacco because I told her not to. We parents need the help of good public health policies to keep our kids safe and healthy. There are times as a parent when I wonder if I am doing the right thing for my kids. With tobacco control, I don't have to wonder; we know what works.

All of our children in Wisconsin deserve to be protected from the dangers of tobacco. Research shows that funding a comprehensive tobacco control program is one of the most effective ways to protect all of our children.

Thank you, Jane Smith 1234 Main Street Janesville, WI 53711

Checklist: Making the Most of Your Written Testimony

- Submit testimony by email to BudgetComments@legis.wisconsin.gov and include your home address.
- Send a copy of your testimony to your legislators with a note about your submission.
- If you have a legislator on the Joint Finance Committee, send a note to them thanking them for their attention and enclose a copy of your testimony. You can find out who is currently on the Joint Finance Committee by visiting docs.legis.wisconsin.gov and clicking on sub-navigation "Committee" > "Joint".