

Do you want to make your voice heard on a bill in the Nebraska Legislature?

OPTION #1: Testifying in person at the bill's public hearing

The most effective way to voice your position on a bill is to testify in person at the bill's public hearing. This way, your name, organization, position, and comments are all part of the official transcripts of the hearing and your name, organization, and position are listed on the bill's committee statement when a committee takes action on the bill.

The committee statement is a document posted to the legislative website for each bill that lists the vote taken by the committee, supporters and opponents who spoke at the hearing, and summaries of committee amendments. Senators regularly reference a bill's committee statement during floor debate to learn what happened at the public hearing. **This is why testifying at the hearing is the best option for input!**

Committee chairs schedule each bill's hearing at least seven days in advance and post them here: https://nebraskalegislature.gov/calendar/hearings_range.php

OPTION #2: Submitting an online comment

If you cannot make it to a bill's public hearing, but want your position to be part of the public record, you can submit your comments through the online portal found on the webpage for each bill (go to nebraskalegislature.gov and type the bill number in the "Search Current Bills" box). The online comment portal will be listed in the right hand column but only once a bill has been scheduled for a public hearing. **You must submit your comments by noon the business day prior to the hearing** (you can submit them after, but they won't be part of the public record).

Make sure to click the box that you would like your comments to be part of the public record. Note that your position will not be included on the committee statement or official hearing transcripts.

OPTION #3: Calling or emailing your senator

You still have the option to contact senators directly to voice your opinion on a bill. It's more effective to contact the senator who represents you. You can look that up here: https://nebraskalegislature.gov/senators/senator_find.php.



To find out more, visit <https://nebraskalegislature.gov/committees/public-input.php>
For more tips on how to lobby, visit: <https://strongnebraska.org/resources/lobby-training/>