

Parts of a Testimony

| Section | Description | Your story |
|----------------------------|---|------------|
| Personal Experience | What was a challenge or situation you experienced that was affected by the topic. | |
| Details | Describe what happened during this time period - how was your life or your family's life affected? | |
| Outcomes | How did your situation change? | |
| Bill's Impact | Explain how the legislation would help or hurt someone in this position and why is it a positive or negative outcome? | |
| The Ask | Ask the audience for an action - in this case vote yes or no on a bill or action | |

Testimony Example

You will need to introduce yourself to the committee, and this means acknowledging the chair first. It will sound like this: Chair (name here), members of the committee, my name is Tirza Asbell A-S-B-E-L-L, and I am the advocacy director with Montana Women Vote. I am here in support of bill number (either HB or SB number).

| Section | Description | Example |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| Personal Experience | What was a challenge or situation you experienced that was affected by the topic. | Montana Women Vote works alongside low income Montanans to ensure that their voices are represented in decision making spaces. Many of our members are recipients of Medicaid and rely on the program to maintain their own, and their families health. |
| Details | Describe what happened during this time period - how was your life or your family's life affected? | Before expansion was adopted, thousands of Montanans were uninsured and health care centers provided tens of thousands of dollars of unreimbursed care. |
| Outcomes | How did your situation change? | Over the past decade, Medicaid expansion has provided health insurance to those Montanans, drastically decreased the amount of debt absorbed by health care centers, and ensured that Montana kept its critical rural access health centers. |
| Bill's Impact | Explain how the legislation would help or hurt someone in this position and why is it a positive or negative outcome? | If the legislature fails to lift the sunset in the 2025 session, the impacts will be wide spread and long lasting. Montanans will have less ability to access preventative care, have an increased probability of accruing medical debt, and health care centers face a greater likelihood of closure. |
| The Ask | Ask the audience for an action - in this case vote yes or no on a bill or action | Medicaid expansion has increased the state of health for a significant number of Montanans and their families. It has also ensured that health care centers remain open and able to provide vital care throughout the state. Chair, members of the committee, please vote yes and guarantee that all Montanans have access to the care they need. |