

# Giving Public Testimony

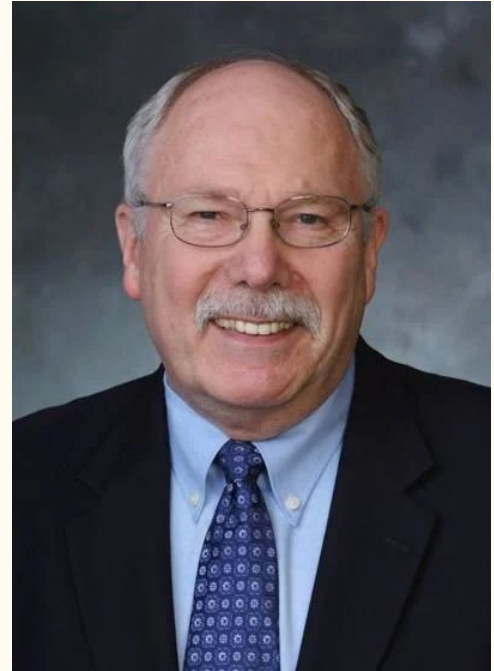


# Background

- The Issues
  - Health care costs
  - Public Health Insurance Option
- Oregon legislature is in session
  - How you can help - submit testimony!
- We'll answer:
  - Why testimony is important
  - How to write and give testimony
  - Any other questions you have!

# Guest Speaker: Sen. Arnie Roblan

- Coos Bay, Oregon
- Oregon legislator 2005-2021
  - 8 years in the House, Co-Speaker 2010-12
  - 8 years in the Senate
  - Retired in early 2021
- Longtime champion for education, schools, and health



# How to Give Testimony

- Be recruited and brought along by a larger group, like OSPIRG

OR

- Follow bills and sign up for testimony on legislative website yourself

- Join the committee remotely and read your testimony out loud in real time

OR

- Submit written testimony that legislators can refer to

# Writing Your Testimony

- Be succinct and to the point
- Explicitly say what you want and why it affects you personally
- Assume good intentions from legislators
- Be respectful, thank them for their time
- Keep in mind that all testimony becomes public record



# Preparing to Testify

- Many hearings are currently remote, so you can testify from home!
- Have a good Internet connection and a quiet space
- Be prepared to wait a while to speak for just a few minutes; stay alert and be ready when called
- Know your audience
  - What is the committee? Who is the chair?
  - Address as “Chair \_\_\_\_\_ and members of the committee...”



# Questions?

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