

## How to testify at a hearing:

- ◆ Plan on being early to the committee hearing
- ◆ Sign in
- ◆ Have written copies of your position or testimony
- ◆ Identify yourself and the organization you represent
- ◆ Be clear and concise in your testimony
- ◆ Give source of facts in your testimony
- ◆ Remember to remain composed
- ◆ Speak to the committee
- ◆ Conclude presentation on a positive note
- ◆ Thank the committee members for listening to your presentation



## Helpful Websites

- ◆ Official Internet Site of Florida Legislature [www.leg.state.fl.us/](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/)
- ◆ Working with State Legislators [www.floridadefense.org](http://www.floridadefense.org)
- ◆ Understand Work of Legislature—teaching site -[www.uen.org](http://www.uen.org)
- ◆ How To Lobby Legislators [www.lwwwa.org](http://www.lwwwa.org)
- ◆ Tips on Meeting with your legislators [www.aota.org/practitioners/advocacy/36412.aspx](http://www.aota.org/practitioners/advocacy/36412.aspx)
- ◆ Toll Free Legislative Information—1-850-488-4371

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## **Do You Want To Be Heard ? How to be an Effective Legislative Advocate**

“The people shall have the right to peaceably assemble, to instruct their representatives, and to petition for the redress of grievances.”

**Article 1, Section 5 F  
Florida Constitution**

**3 Steps**  
**to being a**  
**Successful**  
**Legislative Advocate:**

1. Get Involved
2. Be Informed
3. Be an Educator

**1. Get Involved**

- ◆ Build a relationship with your legislator.
- ◆ Invite him/her to a meeting.
- ◆ Work in the campaign.
- ◆ Inform Legislator of your position



**2. Be Informed**

- ◆ Know your Legislator
- ◆ Meet his/her staff
- ◆ Learn legislator's positions on issues
- ◆ Do you know the issues?
- ◆ Do you know who has proposed the bills?
- ◆ Have you read the bills?
- ◆ Do you follow the bills in each House?
- ◆ Do you know what the media says about the bills?
- ◆ What is your group's position on the bills?

**3. Be An Educator**

- ◆ Will you contact your legislator?
- ◆ Will you inform Legislator of positive and negative sides of a bill?
- ◆ Will you write a one page letter to obtain support ?
- ◆ Will you be able to respond to tough questions about a bill?
- ◆ Will you write a "thank you" letter if bill passes?

