

Testimony Guidelines

House Bill 2599



The Oregon Safe Schools Act, *House Bill 2599*, would strengthen and enhance Oregon's anti-bullying law, ensure consistent enforcement and help keep all children safe. The legislation requires statewide adoption of anti-bullying and anti-harassment policies, creates clear notice and complaint procedures and establishes a comprehensive approach to address bullying. This legislation has been introduced and will have a hearing in the House Education Committee.

In drafting your testimony, please provide specific examples of bullying and harassment. It is critical to demonstrate the bullying in the schools is a problem in order to make it clear that legislators need to take immediate action.

Also, please be sure to describe in detail the *impact* of this bullying and harassment. Has there been an impact on the student's psychological well-being? Has it created a hostile educational environment? Has it interfered with a student's educational opportunities or performance?

Your written testimony should be no more than one page single spaced or two pages double spaced. A sample outline for written testimony is below.

The best way to submit your testimony to Basic Rights Oregon is to email it to Thomas@basicrights.org. We will make the necessary copies and make sure it is submitted along with other written testimony. If you have any questions, call 503-222-6151 x103.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY – SAMPLE OUTLINE

Heading

TO: Oregon State Legislature
FR: *[Your name, affiliation and title]*
RE: Support for House Bill 2599

Testimony Content

First Paragraph: Introduction

1. Who you are
2. Why you're here & why you care
3. State your position on the bill (e.g., I urge you to support House Bill 2599)

Second / Third Paragraph: Body

1. Major Points/Concerns
2. Describe specific examples of bullying or harassment at school in Oregon. What happened? If this was ongoing, describe. What was the result? Did anyone step in to stop the harassment? Did the school have a public anti-bullying policy?
3. Describe the impact of the incident(s) on the educational environment, psychological well-being of the youth involved, and on educational achievement.

Final Paragraph: Conclusion

1. Thank the committee for their consideration of this issue
2. Restate position on bill (e.g., I urge you to support House Bill 2599)