Written Testimony •Written testimony is an opportunity to articulate your perspective on a current legislative issue/bill

before a legislative committee when you cannot be physically present at the committee meeting. It is the opportunity

for you, a current nursing student & future nurse, to educate committee of non-health professionals about your

perspective on a bill and provide evidenceto support your perspective. •The current public health crisis has led to

primarily written testimony options for the current Massachusetts legislative session making this a very current

opportunity and valuable skill –191stGeneral Court –Hearings and Events•Each student nursewill prepare written

testimony as if it were being submitted to a legislative health policy commission or governmental health

commissionoEx: Massachusetts▪Joint Committee on HealthCare Financing▪Joint Committee on Public

Health▪Massachusetts Joint Committees -an OverviewoEx. National▪Key Committees on Healthcare in the

US•Writtentestimony should:ointroduce the topicoexpress a specific position on bill (support or opposition)opresent a

persuasive argument for a perspectiveon that topic (support or opposition)opresent evidence to support your

perspective (support or opposition)odefend thetopic and your perspective on that topicoacknowledgeboth sides of

the topicwhile making a convincing argument for your sideoSee rubric on CANVAS•Testimony willinclude:(see how to

detailson page 2)oOpening statement with an introduction & Statement of positionoBackground or brief history of the

issueoHow the issue effects nurses & the issues of nursingoFinal recommendation for or against the issue

oAlternate recommendationsas neededoClosing information as required by General Rule 1.A.2oName of person

testifying oOrganizational affiliation of person testifying oEmail address& Physical address oTelephone

numberoReference list with in text citationsoLength -Testimony should be 2-3 pages. oUse scholarly writing

technique (grammar, word choice etc) but avoid jargonoTimes new roman, 12 pt font, double spaced, 1”

marginsoSee rubric on CANVAS

NSG 3470 Fall 2020The How To Details:(amended from AACOM, 2018)oOpening Statements =oThank the

chairperson and the members of the committee oGive your name and brief credentials oIdentify the group you

represent or affiliation, when applicableoBriefly introduce the subject of your testimony: •Tell your audience what the

issue/problem is and what you want them to do about it. •Use the bill number and name in the introoAll subsequent

references may use just the bill # •CLEARLY state your position on bill (support or opposition)or the item under

review by the committee oOpening statements show that you are present by choice, you consider yourself an

appropriate spokesperson for the occasion, and you desire to help the committee. oBody=oWhat is the problem or

legislative issue: is it a cost/access/quality problemoOffer background & details about the problem/issue and its

impact nursing and nursing careoAn anecdotal story is a good “hook” (must be relevant & not violate

HIPAA)oPresent data to substantiate the problem’s impact on cost, access, quality, nursing, healthcare, populations

or patients but don’t overwhelm the audience with statistics. oPresent evidence from the literature (higher level the

better, but explain in layman’s terms; keep jargon to a minimum) oWhat you want your audience to do about the

problem oState your recommendation (solution) and describe the implications of the solution/legislation to nursing,

healthcare &/or constituent groups oDescribe the benefits the solution/legislation will produce oInclude stakeholders

who share your recommendation and why (the facts that back up your position) oKnow the opposition’s arguments

and be able to counter them oConclusion=oRepeat your Recommendation oSummarize the most important

reasons/facts that substantiate your position oAt the risk of sounding repetitive –be repetitive!oUse language in your

writing that convincingly expresses your position thank the chairman and committee(Amended from AACOM,

2018)oClosing information as required by General Rule 1.A.2oName of person testifying oOrganizational affiliation of

person testifying oEmail addressPhysical address Telephone number oReference list to support in text citations

NSG 3470 Fall 2020•See resources on debating, argumentative essays and presenting evidenceon CANVAS and as

follows:oAmerican Association of Colleges of Osteopathic MedicineoCenter for Citizen AdvocacyoAPA Why you

must stand up(1:27)oAPA advocacy (2014) –Influencing the process(p.15-17)oFull link: APA A Psychologist’s Guide

to Federal AdvocacyoBuerhaus (2012)Message for thought leaders & health policymakers.pdf•Examples:

oTestimony of Dr. Ernest Grant. PhD, RN, FAAN President American Nurses Association regarding “Part 2:

Protecting the Reliability of the U.S. Medical Supply Chain During the COVID-19 Pandemic”before U.S. Senate

Committee on FinanceoTestimony of Dr. JosephW. Thompson, MD, MPH Director, Robert Wood Johnson

Foundation Center to Prevent Childhood ObesityoTestimony of the Massachusetts Psychological Association in

Support of H.913 and S.610, An Act to Increase Consumer Transparency about Insurance Provider Networks

2019oTestimony of the Massachusetts Psychological Association in support of S. 555 and H. 907, An Act Relative to

the Continuity of Care of Mental Health Treatment2017oTestimony of the Nursing Community Coalition

Written Testimony Topic options➢Pick one piece of legislation currently in process(state or federal) ➢Read the text

of the bill(links provided)➢Read the instructions for the assignment▪You MUST use evidence to support your

assertions. ▪Refer to level of evidence-pyramid and consider the weight of primary vs. secondary sources!➢Address

your letter to the committee that is currently considering the legislation➢Reminder: You may not use a topic that you

used in your legislative letter•Options: Federal oH.R.2581-Nurse Staffing Standards for Hospital Patient Safety and

Quality Care Act of 2019▪Currently referred to House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health–address to

that committee.1357-Nurse Staffing Standards for Hospital Patient Safety and QualityCareAct of 2019▪Currently

4/30/2021 Order 343910151

https://admin.writerbay.com/orders\_available?subcom=detailed&id=343910151 2/2

referred to Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions–address to that committee•Options:

Massachusetts•S.2752An Act requiring healthcare employers to develop and implement programs to prevent

workplace violence referred to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means–address to that committee•H.4689An Act

requiring health care employers to develop and implement programs to prevent workplace violence referred to the

joint committee on HealthCare Financing–address to that committee•H.1945. An Act relative to nurse licensure

compact in MassachusettsoReferred to the joint committee on HealthCare Financing–address to that

committee•H.3487An Act relative to safe patient handling in certain health facilities referred to the joint committee on

HealthCare Financing–address to that committee you have six options-Pick only one–Contactfaulty for clarifications

or assistance