

## Monitoring Bills and Submitting Testimony

### Senate and House Bill Numbers

The Senate and House Bill Numbers which we are following are posted on the HAAP website <http://www.hawaiiiaap.org/> under "Bills We Are Following".

**The Legislature Website:** <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov>

On this website, click on "Bill Status and Docs". You can enter all the bills you are following in a continuous string separated by commas. Click on "Text", as well, to get the text of the bill you are following. Click on "Go" to get the "Bill Status" listing. The numbers of all your bills will be shown in a column. Put this page in "Favorites" so you can use it again from day to day. Click on the bill number to get the status and text.

Bill Status will show you the Date, Time and Room of your hearing. With that information, go to "(Get) current hearing notices". Click on "Get". Find your hearing date and then the number for your bill. Click on this number to get the Hearing Notice.

Hearing Notice gives you the Hearing Agenda with the position of your Bill, hopefully near the top. At the bottom of the page are directions for submitting Testimony. We can **Fax** our testimony to House and/or Senate Sergeant at Arms, as appropriate. They will send the right number of copies to the Vice-chair of the Committee holding the Hearing. The Vice-chair is responsible for assembling testimony. Fax numbers: House Sergeant at Arms 586-6501 - Senate Sergeant at Arms 586-6659.

There is a Fax Submittal Sheet which you fill out and send with your testimony. This sheet gives the Sergeant at Arms the information needed to forward your testimony. The Fax Submittal Sheet is posted on HAAP website <http://www.hawaiiiaap.org/> so that you can download it for your use.

You can also **email** your testimony to the Public Access Room (401) at the Capital. The address is [testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov). Send your email with an MSWord attachment or paste your testimony in the email. We should include all the information on the Fax Submittal Sheet in the email. Don't send boiler plate. Make it personal. Don't send both fax and email. The committee clerks get angry. The Public Access Room, 401, has computers and a public phone we can use. It sounds like a good resource.

These are two ways of submitting testimony but there are others.

## **How Can I Advocate For A Particular Bill I Am Interested In?**

Send written testimony directly to a legislator you know or one who is from your district or just because you want him/her to get the message. You can find the members of the different Committees and the names of all the legislators on <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov>

The names, addresses, phone numbers and fax numbers for all legislators are also found in the phone book under State, Legislature. You can phone the legislator's office and give your recommendation on a particular bill, either support or oppose. You can email testimony directly to the legislator of your choice.

You can make an appointment to talk to your legislator by calling his/her office.

Some forms of testimony get more attention from legislators than others. The order from most attention to least attention is as follows:

1. Written testimony presented orally at a Hearing
2. Written testimony
3. A telephone call in support or opposed
4. An email in support or opposed

An office visit with testimony to discuss the issue with the legislator is probably best of all if followed up with one of the above. Any contact with a legislator is of value.

## **Where Can I Get The Information I Need To Write Testimony?**

The very best information you have comes from your experience with patients in your practice. No one else in the world has this experience and it is the kind of information which legislators want to hear. How will this legislation affect the families you see every day?

The American Academy of Pediatrics' website <http://www.aap.org/> has Policy Statements, Issue Briefs and additional information on just about every thing you can think of. You can find this information under "Advocacy" and on the Members Only Channel.

You can get local statistics by contacting the Agency or Department which is supporting the bill. This might be DOH, MADD, Champions for Children or Healthy Start. The HAAP website posts a list of resources for information relating to testimony.

The HAAP has posted Position Papers and Testimony on various issues and bills on its website. These contain background information, pediatrician perspective, advocacy and references.

You can use background information from the HAAP Position Papers and Testimony. Substitute your own individual "pediatrician's perspective" in support of the bill. You can send this directly to the Committee as above.

## **What Is The Point Of All This Activity?**

Let's keep it simple. Pediatricians have a perspective on the needs of children and families which no one else has. We need to get this information into the hands of the people making the laws. This is one way to do that.

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