
LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY GUIDE

Info from the Youth and Young
Adult Continuum of Care
(YYACC) December 2023
Meeting





TESTIMONY

This can be overwhelming, time-consuming, and traumatizing.

Families and people with lived experience need clear guidelines and helping hands to get them to the table in the most effective and considerate ways.

(Strategic Sharing Workshops?)

Signing up for testimony:

<https://leg.wa.gov/legislature/Pages/Participating.aspx>

ADVOCACY EMAILS

- Email your elected officials directly – this is important if a bill you are watching makes it all the way to the floor of the House or the Senate.
- Email specific committees directly – as bills move forward, they go through different committees hearing testimony. The most effective way to advocate is to follow the bill updates and send emails directly to the committee in relation to the hearing at hand.





EMAIL DETAILS

- Send email directly to the addresses of all committee members as well as both the partisan caucus staff and the nonpartisan staff.
- All legislative emails follow this format:
firstname.lastname@leg.wa.gov
- All staff and elected official emails are here: <https://leg.wa.gov>
- Email all parties at once in the same email – if a legislator replies, it will flag it in the other members' inboxes

GOOD TO KNOW:

YOU CAN GIVE TESTIMONY VIA EMAIL,
IN-PERSON IN OLYMPIA, OR VIA ZOOM

BE READY TO TELL YOUR STORY IN TWO
MINUTES

SEND AN EMAIL EVEN IF YOU PLAN TO
TESTIFY – SOMETIMES THERE ARE SO
MANY PEOPLE PRESENT THAT YOU
WON'T GET THE CHANCE!

IF YOU DO GIVE TESTIMONY, MENTION
YOUR EMAIL SO THAT LEGISLATORS
KNOW TO LOOK FOR IT



Resources:

Advocacy toolkits

<https://wapave.org/?s=legislative+advocacy>

<https://wsccsupport.org/advocacy/>

WSCC also provides training support for people with lived experience who would like to testify

<https://www.ffcmh.org/>

YYACC Resource Repository. *This is a living tool for YYACC participants to engage with and contribute to. It is very much in its preliminary stages of development, but has some helpful advocacy and educational resources particular to YYACC priorities. **Feel free to add any and all resources you think would be beneficial for the group!***

Bill tracking and issue briefs

<https://partnersforourchildren.org/>

<https://leg.wa.gov>

Pre-session, you can view bills on the legislative website that are pre-filed, any updates in real-time before they go on to committees.



THANK YOU