

How to Participate in the Legislative Process During Covid

The Maine Legislature has gone completely virtual this session, but you can still participate by submitting written testimony or testifying in a community hearing via Zoom

How to submit written testimony:

- Once a public hearing has been scheduled for a bill, you can submit written testimony via the State's [online testimony submission system](#)
- You'll be asked to select the committee hearing the bill, all child nutrition bills will be heard by the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee
- Then you'll be asked to select the date of the hearing and the bill you are submitting testimony for
- Then you can enter your testimony, either by uploading your document or you can copy and paste it into the testimony field
- Using this online testimony submission portal ensures that all members of the committee receive your written remarks

How to present oral testimony:

- Register to give oral testimony at least 30 minutes before the committee hearing is scheduled using the same [online testimony submission system](#) above
- When filling out the form, be sure to check the box "I would like to present my testimony live"
- The committee clerk will send an invitation to join the Zoom hearing with a link to register
- Once you have registered, you will receive a Zoom link to join the hearing
- At the time of the scheduled hearing, you will click to join the meeting and will be placed in a "waiting room" where you will be able to see and hear the committee members and proceedings, but they will not be able to see or hear you yet
- The committee chairs and committee clerk will be monitoring who is in the waiting room, and will also have a list of who is scheduled to testify
- People will be admitted into the meeting 2 or 3 at a time to give their testimony
- While transitioning from the waiting room to the meeting, you will see a box with a blue spooling circle and a message saying "Joining" - be patient, as this could take 5-7 seconds
- When you can see the participants again you will be in the meeting
- Remain muted until you are called on to speak by the Committee Chair
- Once you have given your testimony and answered any questions from the committee, you will be returned to the waiting room

- Once you're back in the waiting room, you should leave the Zoom meeting
- You can continue to watch the public hearing using the committee's [YouTube channel](#)

Please reach out to me with any questions!

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