## **General Format**

**TESTIMONY OF (NAME)** 

In Support/Opposition of Bill#/Issue as it is written

Before the Committee or Agency Name Hearing Date

Mr. Chairman/Madam Chairwoman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony today. My name is (name) and I am representing (myself or list organization).

I support/oppose bill#/issue because...

Thank you,

Your Name Your Title Want to Learn More About Lobbying or to Stay Informed About Legislation in Your State?

Check out our Government 101 Lobbying Guide and other lobbying information on our website and join our Facebook group for up-to-date state exotic animal legislative monitoring.

## BECOMING A CITIZEN LOBBYIST FOR YOUR ANIMALS

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Uniting A Politically Proactive Exotic Animal League (U.A.P.P.E.A.L.) is the first non-profit 501 (c) 4 lobbying organization that represents current and future owners, handlers and enthusiasts of all species of native and exotic animals and their hybrids at both the federal and state levels.

Mission: To protect the right of responsible exotic and alternative animal ownership by lobbying to prevent unfair regulation, discouraging the casual acquisition of exotic animals through education, and furthering animal welfare through the responsible placement of animals in need.



## ABC's of Written Testimony

- ADDRESS the committee chair and committee
- BRUSH UP on the committee and bill or issue
- CONVEY your thanks for their time
- DOUBLE-SPACE your testimony
- EXPAND upon your verbal testimony, if applicable
- FILL OUT a registration form or slip if required
- GATHER as much research as possible
- HAND OUT your testimony if attending the hearing
- INCLUDE the specific bill # or issue
- JAZZ UP your testimony to make it memorable, but don't go overboard



- **KEEP** on point
- LEAD with a brief overview of your testimony
- MAKE sure your testimony is easy to understand
- NAME any person or organization you are representing or are writing for

- OBSERVE the rules for submitting testimony
- PROOFREAD your testimony for errors
- QUALIFY your testimony with research
- REFLECT on how the bill or issue will affect you
- STATE your stance on the bill/issue
- TACKLE as many points as desired

  – there is no size limit
- USE just one side of the paper
- VOICE your side of the bill or issue
- WRAP UP your testimony by re-stating your position
- XEROX (make copies of) your testimony, as many as required
- YIELD and be sure to have someone else read your testimony before submitting it
- **ZIP** your testimony in by the deadline