

# Union of Saints

## National Legislative Advocacy & Public Safety Initiative

### Purpose

The Union of Saints supports peaceful community participation, public education, community safety, transparency, and the protection of human dignity.

This initiative provides a framework for members and community partners who wish to participate in the legislative process concerning pesticides, chemical exposure, environmental health, housing conditions, public safety, and related issues.

Our goal is to encourage people to become informed, document their experiences, participate peacefully in government, and ask appropriate public authorities to investigate legitimate concerns.

### 1. Know Your Legislative Rights

Members of the public can participate in state legislative processes in a variety of ways, depending upon the state.

Possible forms of participation include:

- Registering a position for or against a bill
- Submitting written testimony
- Requesting to testify at a committee hearing
- Providing public comment
- Contacting individual legislators
- Contacting legislative committees
- Providing supporting documentation
- Attending public hearings
- Participating in lawful demonstrations and community education

Each state establishes its own procedures. Members should use official legislative websites and follow the applicable rules.

### 2. Registering Opposition to a Bill

When a proposed bill may affect pesticide regulation, environmental health, chemical exposure, housing safety, or public health, members may wish to formally register an opposition position.

Depending upon the state, the available option may be labeled:

**Oppose  
Against  
No  
Opposition  
Against the Bill**

Members should identify the bill number, title, committee, and legislative session before submitting their position.

### **3. Written Testimony**

A written statement should clearly explain:

1. Which bill is being addressed.
2. Whether the writer supports or opposes the bill.
3. Why the bill matters.
4. What specific changes or protections are requested.
5. Any personal experience relevant to the issue.
6. Any reliable evidence supporting the concerns.
7. What action the writer is asking the committee or legislature to take.

Personal experiences should be clearly identified as personal experiences. Scientific or medical claims should be supported by reliable evidence whenever possible.

### **4. Suggested Public Statement**

I am writing to respectfully register my opposition to this legislation because I am concerned about its potential effects on pesticide regulation, environmental health, and public safety.

Communities deserve meaningful transparency regarding chemicals used in and around homes, workplaces, schools, and other occupied environments.

I respectfully ask legislators to consider independent scientific evidence, meaningful public notice, exposure protections, monitoring, and appropriate safeguards before permitting practices that could affect human health or the environment.

I also ask that members of the public have meaningful opportunities to participate in decisions affecting their communities.

I support peaceful civic participation, transparency, scientific investigation, and accountability.

## **5. Documenting Community Experiences**

People who believe they have experienced adverse effects from pesticide or chemical exposure should document information carefully.

Where possible, preserve:

- Dates and times of suspected applications
- Locations
- Names of products or chemicals, if known
- Application notices
- Photographs
- Written communications
- Receipts and financial losses
- Medical or dental records
- Environmental testing results
- Property-management communications
- Witness statements
- Government reports
- Relevant scientific literature

Documentation should distinguish between what a person directly observed, what they were told, what they believe may have occurred, and what has been independently established.

## **6. Requesting Investigation**

When serious concerns exist, members may request investigation from appropriate authorities, depending upon the circumstances.

Possible contacts may include:

- State environmental agencies
- State health departments
- Local health departments
- Pesticide regulatory agencies
- Housing authorities
- Legislative committees
- Attorneys general

- Local government
- Federal environmental authorities
- Elected representatives

The purpose of reporting is to encourage appropriate investigation rather than to assume a conclusion before evidence has been evaluated.

## **7. National State-by-State Participation**

The Union of Saints may maintain a continually updated resource identifying the official legislative participation procedures for all 50 states.

For each state, the resource should identify:

- Official legislative website
- Bill-search system
- Committee calendar
- Public testimony system
- Online position-registration system, if available
- Written-testimony procedure
- Remote testimony procedure
- Legislative contact information
- Rules governing public participation

Because legislative procedures change, members should verify instructions using the current official state legislative website before submitting testimony or registering a position.

## **8. Principles of Advocacy**

The Union of Saints encourages advocacy based upon:

### **Peace**

We advocate without violence or threats.

### **Truth**

We distinguish firsthand experience from verified evidence.

### **Dignity**

We treat affected individuals and public officials with respect.

### **Transparency**

We ask for clear information about chemicals, applications, risks, and regulatory decisions.

**Accountability**

We believe legitimate concerns deserve appropriate investigation.

**Science and Evidence**

We encourage the use of reliable scientific research and independent investigation.

**Community Protection**

We support reasonable measures intended to protect people, families, communities, and the environment.

**9. A Call to Civic Participation**

A person does not need to be a professional advocate, scientist, attorney, or politician to participate in the legislative process.

A citizen can:

**Learn.**

**Document.**

**Ask questions.**

**Submit testimony.**

**Register a position.**

**Contact representatives.**

**Attend hearings.**

**Speak peacefully.**

**Encourage transparency.**

The legislative process belongs to the public.

**Union of Saints Statement**

The Union of Saints supports peaceful participation in government and encourages individuals to bring legitimate concerns forward through lawful civic channels.

When people believe that environmental or chemical practices are affecting their communities, their voices deserve to be heard, their concerns deserve appropriate consideration, and evidence should be evaluated honestly.

We seek peace, truth, accountability, healing, and protection of human dignity.

**Peace ☯ Love ♥ Forgiveness ☐**