

SB 49 — Public Testimony Guide

Talking Points & 1-Minute Examples

IMPORTANT REMINDER

- You only have ONE (1) minute to testify (*that's about 120-150 words*).
 - Practice ahead of time and time yourself.
 - Calm, respectful, and concise testimony is the most effective.
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GOAL OF TESTIMONY

Support SB 49 by emphasizing:

- Transparency for parents
- Partnership between families and schools
- Protection of intellectual freedom
- Commonsense solutions — not conflict

This bill does not ban books. It provides information and builds trust.

KEY TALKING POINTS (Choose 2–3)

You do not need to cover everything. Pick what resonates most with you.

- SB 49 is a voluntary pilot program, not a mandate
 - It gives parents transparency, not censorship
 - No books are banned or removed
 - Academic freedom and instructional materials are protected
 - Parents are partners in education, not obstacles
 - Transparency builds trust, and trust improves engagement
 - SB 49 is a practical, balanced way forward
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WHAT TO AVOID

- Attacking educators, schools, or lawmakers
 - Emotional or accusatory language
 - Long personal stories that exceed the time limit
 - Debating extreme hypotheticals
 - Tone matters. Calm confidence carries weight.
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SAMPLE 1-MINUTE TESTIMONY #1—*Parent Perspective*

“Good afternoon, Chair and members of the committee.

My name is ____, and I’m a parent from ____.

I’m here in support of SB 49 because it offers a balanced, commonsense solution. Parents are not asking for books to be banned—we’re asking for transparency. SB 49 provides that without limiting academic freedom or local control.

This bill recognizes parents as partners in education, not obstacles. When families are informed, trust grows, and engagement follows. That benefits students, teachers, and schools alike.

SB 49 doesn’t remove materials—it provides information. That’s responsible, respectful, and practical. I urge you to support SB 49 as the best way forward for New Mexico families. Thank you.”

SAMPLE 1-MINUTE TESTIMONY #2—*Community Member / Educator-Friendly*

“Good afternoon, members of the committee.

My name is ____, and I’m here to support SB 49.

This bill strikes the right balance. It protects intellectual freedom while giving parents the transparency they’re asking for. Participation is voluntary, instructional materials are excluded, and no books are banned.

SB 49 helps rebuild trust between schools and families by encouraging communication instead of conflict. That’s exactly what our education system needs right now.

Transparency doesn’t weaken education—it strengthens it. I respectfully ask you to support SB 49. Thank you for your time.”

SAMPLE 1-MINUTE TESTIMONY #3 —*Short & Direct*

“Chair and members, thank you for the opportunity to speak.

My name is ____.

I support SB 49 because it’s a reasonable, responsible approach to a sensitive issue. This bill does not censor books—it provides parents with information so they can stay engaged in their child’s education.

SB 49 respects local control, protects academic freedom, and encourages partnership instead of division. It’s a thoughtful pilot program that deserves support.

I urge you to vote yes on SB 49. Thank you.”

FINAL TIP

Write your testimony out, read it aloud, and time yourself.

If it’s over a minute, cut it down — shorter is stronger.