

Support HB 65 — 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.
- You do not need to be an expert — personal impact matters

🎯 GOAL OF TESTIMONY

Support HB 65 by emphasizing:

- Stability for children in state custody
- Support for foster and kinship families
- Prevention of placement disruptions and trauma
- Evidence-based, accountable solutions — not crisis reactions

This bill stabilizes children before placements fall apart.

✓ KEY TALKING POINTS (Choose 2-3)

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

- HB 65 is a three-year pilot program, not a permanent expansion
- It stabilizes children early to prevent repeated placement changes
- It supports foster and kin caregivers with real tools and training
- Services are evidence-based and guided by standardized assessments
- It reduces trauma and long-term system costs
- Accountability and guardrails are built into the bill

🚫 WHAT TO AVOID

- Attacking CYFD staff or foster families
- Emotional or accusatory language
- Long personal stories that exceed the time limit
- Broad complaints about the entire child welfare system

Tone matters. Calm confidence carries weight.

SAMPLE 1-MINUTE TESTIMONY #1 — Parent / Community Member

“Good afternoon, Chair and members of the committee.

My name is ___, and I’m a parent/community member from ___.

Children in state custody don’t need more moves — they need stability. Too often, placements fail not because families don’t care, but because they don’t have the support they need. HB 65 addresses this by stabilizing children early through evidence-based services and caregiver support.

This is a limited, accountable pilot program that helps keep children in safe, home-like settings and reduces trauma caused by repeated placement disruptions.

HB 65 supports families, protects children, and is a responsible step forward. I respectfully urge you to vote YES on HB 65. Thank you.”

SAMPLE 1-MINUTE TESTIMONY #2 — Foster Parent / Advocate Perspective

“Good afternoon, members of the committee.

My name is ___, and I’m a foster parent/child advocate.

Many placements fail not because families are unwilling, but because they’re asked to handle high-need situations without enough support. HB 65 changes that by providing crisis response, therapy, and training so placements can succeed.

This bill is not about expanding government — it’s about stabilizing children and supporting the families who care for them. It’s evidence-based, targeted, and accountable.

Please vote YES on HB 65 to strengthen families and protect vulnerable children. 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 HB 65 because stability matters. This bill helps prevent placement disruptions by supporting foster families and stabilizing children early, before crisis escalates.

HB 65 is a limited pilot program with clear accountability and evidence-based care. It reduces trauma, supports families, and improves outcomes for children in state custody.

I urge you to vote YES on HB 65. 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.