

## Support HB 76 — 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
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### GOAL OF TESTIMONY

Support **HB 76** by emphasizing:

- Safe, appropriate placements for high-need youth
- Expanding real alternatives to congregate care
- Protecting foster families and caregivers
- Responsible, accountable solutions — not crisis placements

This bill ensures children are placed based on **need, not availability**.

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### KEY TALKING POINTS (Choose 2–3)

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

- HB 76 expands **safe alternatives to congregate care**
  - It focuses on older youth and children with higher needs
  - It strengthens the continuum of care, not bureaucracy
  - It protects foster families from unsafe placements
  - Funding is **time-limited and accountable**
  - HB 76 works alongside HB 65 to stabilize children at every stage
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### WHAT TO AVOID

- Attacking CYFD, HCA, or service providers
- Emotional or accusatory language
- Long personal stories that exceed the time limit
- Broad criticism of the entire child welfare system

*Tone matters. Calm confidence carries weight.*

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### **SAMPLE 1-MINUTE TESTIMONY #1 — Community Member / Safety-Focused**

“Good afternoon, Chair and members of the committee.

My name is \_\_\_\_, and I’m a community member from \_\_\_\_.

Children in state custody should be placed based on their needs—not because there are no other options. HB 76 addresses a serious gap in our child welfare system by expanding safe, appropriate alternatives to congregate care for high-need youth.

This bill protects foster families, strengthens the continuum of care, and ensures children receive the level of support they actually need. HB 76 is targeted, accountable, and focused on safety and better outcomes.

I respectfully urge you to vote YES on HB 76. Thank you.”

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### **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.

Too often, foster families are asked to take placements without the right level of clinical support because no appropriate alternatives exist. HB 76 helps fix that by expanding treatment-based placements and crisis response options for youth with higher needs.

This bill doesn’t expand bureaucracy—it expands safety and responsibility. It works alongside HB 65 to ensure children are supported at every stage.

Please vote YES on HB 76. Thank you for your time.”

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

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

My name is \_\_\_\_.

I support HB 76 because children deserve the right care at the right time. This bill expands safe placement options for high-need youth and protects foster families from unsafe situations.

HB 76 is targeted, accountable, and necessary to address real gaps in our system. I urge you to vote YES on HB 76. Thank you.”

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### **FINAL TIP**

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

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