

Support HB 99 — Guide to Public Testimony

Talking Points & 1-Minute Examples

IMPORTANT REMINDER

- You only have **ONE (1) minute** to testify (*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 **HB 99** by emphasizing:

- Protecting patient access to care
- Keeping doctors practicing in New Mexico
- Strengthening the Patient Compensation Fund
- Fair accountability — not abuse of the system
- Stability and predictability in medical malpractice law

HB 99 protects patients and strengthens New Mexico's healthcare system.

KEY TALKING POINTS (Choose 2–3)

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

- New Mexico is losing doctors due in part to an unstable malpractice system
 - Patients lose access to care when doctors leave
 - HB 99 **does not cap medical care** related to malpractice injuries
 - The Patient Compensation Fund is paid for by doctors — **not taxpayers**
 - HB 99 strengthens the fund so it can continue caring for patients
 - Punitive damages are still allowed — but must be based on real evidence
 - Fair rules help doctors focus on patients instead of lawsuits
 - Stable healthcare systems benefit families, rural communities, and patients
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WHAT TO AVOID

- Attacking doctors, hospitals, lawyers, or lawmakers
- Emotional or accusatory language
- Complex legal arguments

- Long personal stories that exceed the time limit
- Debating extreme or hypothetical scenarios

Tone matters. Calm confidence carries weight.

SAMPLE 1-MINUTE TESTIMONY #1 — Patient / Family Perspective

“Good afternoon, Chair and members of the committee.

My name is ____, and I’m from ____.

I’m here in support of HB 99 because access to healthcare depends on doctors being able to practice in our state. Right now, New Mexico is losing doctors, and families are feeling the impact through longer wait times and fewer options for care.

HB 99 protects patients by ensuring medical care related to a malpractice injury is fully covered. It also strengthens the Patient Compensation Fund, which is paid for by doctors — not taxpayers — so patients can receive care in serious cases.

This bill creates fair rules that protect patients while helping keep doctors in New Mexico. I respectfully urge you to support HB 99. Thank you.”

SAMPLE 1-MINUTE TESTIMONY #2 — Community Member / Rural Focus

“Good afternoon, members of the committee.

My name is ____, and I’m here to support HB 99.

In many parts of New Mexico, especially rural areas, losing even one doctor can mean losing access to care altogether. An unstable medical malpractice system makes it harder to recruit and retain providers.

HB 99 strengthens the Patient Compensation Fund, ensures accountability is based on evidence, and keeps medical care available for patients who experience malpractice injuries.

This bill helps stabilize our healthcare system so doctors can stay and communities can be served. I urge you to vote yes on HB 99. 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 99 because it protects patient care while creating fair and predictable rules for doctors. Medical care related to malpractice injuries remains fully covered, and the Patient Compensation Fund — paid for by doctors — is strengthened so it can continue serving patients.

Keeping doctors in New Mexico is critical to healthcare access. HB 99 is a responsible step in the right direction. I respectfully ask for your support. 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.