

# DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION

*Through Community Action*

Ideal witnesses have deep knowledge and lived experience about the topic of the field hearing. You should showcase individuals directly impacted by a law, a proposal or a policy. Explaining the topic and the tradeoffs is also important during any deliberative process—local and state government folks usually have much to share, if asked. Also, an important perspective involves basic civics—individuals who can speak about the Constitution, role of Congress, rule of law and checks and balances. Here are some links to get started.

Membership organizations provide information connecting local to federal:

[The National Association of Counties](#)  
[National Governor's Association](#)  
[US Conference of Mayors](#)  
[National Conference of State Legislatures](#)  
[National League of Cities](#)  
[Council of State Governments](#)  
[International City/County Management Association](#)  
[National Association of Towns and Townships](#)  
[National Association of State Budget Officers](#)  
[National Association of Secretaries of State](#)  
[National Association of Regional Councils](#)  
[State Government Affairs council](#)  
[National Congress of American Indians](#)

[Here is a directory of US State and Local Government Resources](#)

Other associations or leadership offices can be helpful:

[Adjutants General Association of the United States](#) (National Guard)  
[National Association of Secretaries of State](#)  
[National Association of State Election Directors](#)

In the wake of recent shifts in federal employment, the following organizations provide good leads for local impact testimony:

Map of [science impacts](#) nationwide of elimination of research and development budgets  
[FedScienceImpacts](#) tracks the loss of science and technology expertise  
[National Young Farmers Coalition](#) is a national network of rural voices. [RuralOrganizing](#) as well.

The [Federal Workers Union](#) has up-to-the-minute information, stories of loss, and contacts.

Impact stories from [Health and Human Services](#)

This [Impact Map](#) collects stories of federal public service loss from across the USA.

Thousands of nonprofit and social profit organizations exist across the USA. They are findable by topic. Membership groups provide information about local impacts. For example:

[AARP](#) on Social Security

[Association of Public and Land Grant Universities](#) for research grant cuts

The [American Library Association](#) for cuts to our public library system

Kaiser Family Foundation on [Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program](#) (CHIP)

The [National Education Association](#) has contact information for your state. Call and ask for local data.

The [National Parks Conservation Association](#) or [Sierra Club](#) has information on how the Executive Orders will impact our public parks.

[The National Urban League](#)

Most churches have national headquarters, as well. They are often good first stops for social welfare topics like poverty, homelessness and issues involving refugees and migrants.

Look for regional organizations, like [Reimagine Appalachia](#) or [New Mexico Main Street](#)

Your local [Chamber of Commerce](#) and tourism offices can provide information about federal policy implications for local economies. Use your networks!