



Policy Library

NDSA Testimony Policy

Approved by the General Assembly on Saturday, February 25, 2023

This Policy covers regulations and expectations for any delegate submitting testimony to the state legislature on behalf of the North Dakota Student Association (NDSA).

TESTIMONY

Any student submitting testimony to the North Dakota State Legislature on behalf of the NDSA must adhere to following regulations:

- A. Testimony must be based on and/or supported by a resolution or public statement approved by the General Assembly within the last four years. All testimony must clearly and accurately reflect the views of the NDSA.
- B. The NDSA representative submitting testimony must propose their content to the NDSA President and Vice President of Governmental Affairs at least 18 hours before the submission deadline. The representative must provide a full draft of the written testimony.
 1. Feedback must be submitted to the writer 4 hours before the submission deadline to be considered.
 2. While the Policy Advocacy and Research Taskforce (PAR Taskforce) charter is active, the representative must also submit testimony to all members of the PAR Taskforce for review.
- C. The NDSA representative submitting testimony must receive approval from the current NDSA President and Vice President of Governmental Affairs before presenting testimony to the North Dakota State Legislature.
- D. NDSA representatives must conduct and present themselves in a professional and respectful manner while giving testimony. While representing the NDSA to the ND State Legislature, representatives are expected to:
 1. Dress in business professional attire, in accordance with the ND State Capitol's guidelines
 2. Interact with policymakers and staff with respect
 3. Avoid using explicitly partisan or politically charged language
- E. When speaking on behalf of the NDSA, representatives must refer directly to content approved by the NDSA General Assembly. If the NDSA has not approved any relevant resolution or public statement, the representative should clarify that the NDSA has not taken an official stance on the topic.
 1. If the representative would like to share a personal opinion, they must explicitly state that it is a personal belief and not representative of the views of the NDSA. Representatives should not share personal opinions while actively testifying to a committee, the House, or the Senate chambers.

Section B (2) of this policy will be considered null & void upon the expiration or termination of the Policy Advocacy and Research (PAR) Taskforce.