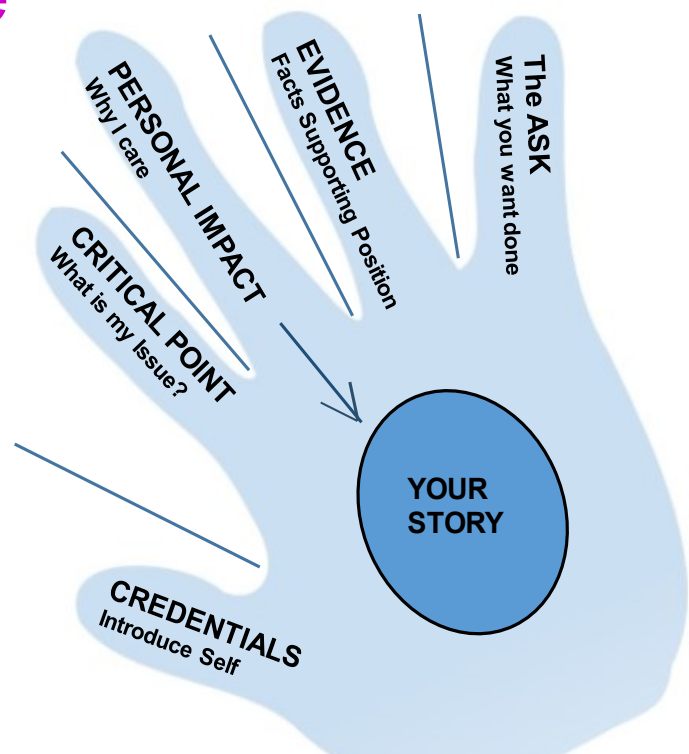


# A "HANDy" Guide

## for Crafting Your Message



The "HANDy Guide to Crafting Your Message" is a simple way to remember the essential elements of effective testimony.

1. Introduce yourself. Tell your name, where you live, that you are a constituent. If you are advocating for an organization, state its name and (briefly) its purpose.
2. What is my issue? State the issue or critical point you want to make. I am here to talk about . . . Be specific if there is a bill number you are asking the legislator to support, if applicable.
3. Why do you care about this issue? What is your story about the impact of this issue on your life or on someone you know.
4. What evidence do you have? What are the facts, the data supporting your position. Giving facts provides the legislator with reasons why he/she can support the bill.
5. Make the ask. Specifically what do you want your legislator to do? Will he/she co-sponsor the bill? What will he/she do to bring the bill to a vote? This is where you get to ask for accountability from your legislator and determine what your next steps need to be.

Finally, thank them for their work and for meeting with you.