

Guidance for Expert Witnesses

What is an Expert Witness?

Normally only Members of the Senate may enter the Senate chamber. When a Senator proposes a motion, they can invite an *Expert Witness* to assist with a single motion.

Rules of Senate

Wait your Turn to Speak: Only speak with the Speaker's permission.

Brevity: Keep your points brief & related to the topic under discussion.

Not a Conversation: Senate does not permit back-and-forth, clarification or argument.

How does it work?

Wait for Your Motion: Please remain outside the chamber until called upon.

Enter When You are Called: Only enter once summoned by the Speaker.

Initial Address: Both the Senator and the Expert Witness may make a *brief* initial address at the beginning. There will be no interruptions or questions.

Brief Questions: Members of the Senate may ask questions or make statements relevant to the motion. The proposing Senator may respond each time or they can delegate to the expert witness. Only *one* of you can respond to each question.

Exit After Your Motion: The expert witness must leave the floor after the vote. There is no opportunity for a final address to the Senate once voting begins.

What Should I Say?

Advance your cause: You have the freedom to choose your words to advance your cause. There is no legal requirement for truth on the Senate floor.

Silence: You can choose not to speak, you can even leave the floor.

Differing Opinions: You are not obligated to agree with the inviting Senator; they cannot dismiss you or call additional witnesses. They can prevent you from answering questions.

How Long Will It Take?

Senate length depends on how many motions are tabled, and how much Senators wish to discuss those motions. This makes it hard to determine how long you will wait. You can wait in here, or in the gallery, or elsewhere. If you are absent when called, the Speaker will continue the motion; you may be called for again later or the Senator may call another witness.

Once your motion is called and the address is complete, the discussions may be brief or extensive. Voting may occur immediately or after numerous questions.

If you have accessibility or childcare needs that will make it hard to wait a long or unpredictable time, please speak to a Speaker before the start of the session.