



Guide to testifying in support of LD 1854, the classification and compensation bill

The hearing on LD 1854:

When: 9:35 a.m. Friday, May 12, 2023

Where: Legislature's State and Local Government Committee, **Cross Office Room 214** and online

Key points:

- Testify on your own **personal time**, using your own **personal devices**.
- Personal stories **are best!**
- Key messages: **Pick one or two** – they don't need to be long, just a sentence or two.
- Story: **Tell a story** that illustrates your main point.
- Closing: **Reinforce your key message** ("Please support LD 1854") and **thank** the committee.
- Need help with writing and preparing your testimony? **Contact Beth:** beth.white@mseaseiu.org

Questions to prompt your writing testimony in support of LD 1854:

(You don't need to answer all questions – they're meant to help with brainstorming for your testimony!)

- Does your department have vacancies open? How many? How long have they been open?
- What impact have recruitment and retention issues had on the services you and your coworkers provide?
- How does the state employee pay gap impact your department or worksite?
- How does the pay gap impact your ability to make ends meet for you and your family?
- How would closing the state employee pay gap help you and your coworkers do your jobs better making Maine a better place?

3 ways to testify!

- **TESTIFY LIVE IN PERSON:** Go to Cross Office Building Room 214 **and bring 20 printed copies of your testimony for the committee**. Also bring a copy to read at the microphone as well. You don't need to register in advance, but you do need to add your name to the list of people wishing to speak when you arrive at the hearing room. You will have 3 minutes to speak, and the time goes by fast! Typically, one page of single-spaced testimony will fill this time. If you feel like you can't say everything in three minutes, you can always submit longer written testimony. Some folks find it helpful to practice their testimony a few times before the hearing. Put things into your own words – the most important thing you can do is to share why you personally support LD 1854. Sharing your own experiences and stories is powerful and legislators need to hear them!

- **TESTIFY LIVE VIA ZOOM:** Register at least 30 minutes before the hearing to testify live via Zoom! You'll want to prepare your testimony before the hearing and submit it online ahead of the hearing if possible (MSEA-SEIU staffer Beth White can help with submitting testimony or signing up for hearings). To testify live via Zoom: Using your personal device, go to www.mainelegislature.org/testimony and follow these directions: At the link, select Public Hearing; select State and Local Government Committee; select the hearing date; select LD 1854 – An Act to Complete and Implement the Comprehensive Review of the Classification and Compensation System for Executive Branch Employees; select the box that says "I would like to testify electronically over Zoom"; select "I am for the proposed legislation"; upload a PDF of your testimony or copy/paste the text of your testimony into the box; type in your name, city/town, personal email address (you'll need to type in your email address twice) and personal phone; select "I'm not a robot"; click "Submit/Register" and you are set – then check your inbox for the Zoom link!
- **SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY ELECTRONICALLY:** If you are unable to testify live in person or live via Zoom, you can submit your written testimony electronically! Using your personal device, go to www.mainelegislature.org/testimony and follow these directions: At the link, select Public Hearing; select State and Local Government Committee; select the hearing date; select LD 1854 – An Act to Complete and Implement the Comprehensive Review of the Classification and Compensation System for Executive Branch Employees; skip over the box that says "I would like to testify electronically over Zoom"; upload a PDF of your testimony or copy/paste the text of your testimony into the box; type in your name, city/town and personal email address (you'll need to type in your email address twice; skip over phone number; select "I'm not a robot"; click "Submit/Register" and you are set!

How the hearing will work

- The hearing will begin with testimony from the legislators sponsoring the bill. Next, members of the public will get to speak. Generally, the testimony is in order of those supporting the bill, those against it, then those who are neutral but wish to offer information.
- You can only speak for 3 minutes, but your written testimony can be longer.
- Direct your comments to the committee, not the audience.
- Sometimes, legislators will come and go from the hearing if they have to attend other hearings or work sessions. Don't be alarmed – they'll get a copy of your written testimony!

When it's your turn to testify (via Zoom or in person)

- You'll hear the clerk announce your name & move you from Zoom "attendee" to "participant."
- Turn on your video, unmute, and introduce yourself to the Committee Chairs and Members: "Senator Nangle, Representative Stover, members of the Committee on State and Local Government, I'm _____. I am here on my own time to speak in support of LD 1854."
- Read your testimony! You may get a gentle reminder when 3 minutes is up.
- Conclude your testimony by politely asking the Committee to support LD 1854.
- After you're finished, members of the committee might have questions for you. It's always okay to say you don't know the answer to a question!

Need help? Contact Beth at beth.white@mseaseiu.org or 207-624-0628 for help with drafting or proofreading testimony, signing up for hearings, or if you have questions.