

Health Policy 201

Fall 2010

Assignment #3

Draft testimony to a legislative committee on a smoking bill

A bill has been proposed to prohibit smoking in private clubs. A copy of the bill was handed out in class and can be found at <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2007/TOB/s/pdf/2007SB-00087-R00-SB.pdf>

Your audience is the Connecticut General Assembly's Public Health Committee. The committee is Co-Chaired by Senator Jonathan Harris and Representative Elizabeth Ritter.

Background: When the Connecticut legislature in 2003 banned smoking inside restaurants, bars, and other facilities that sell liquor as well as most workplaces, it did not ban smoking in private clubs.

Choose who you will be testifying on behalf of – yourself, a community group, a health care provider (hospital, physician practice, etc.), a private club (maybe a smoking club), a bar owner, a dining club, etc. Are you supporting or opposing the bill? What are your reasons? What facts will you include to support your position?

As an example of a bill and its testimony, consider SB-186, a bill that would have required health clubs to install an automatic external defibrillator and ensure at least one employee on site at all times is trained in its use.

The bill can be found at <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2010/TOB/s/pdf/2010SB-00186-R00-SB.pdf> but it can be difficult to decipher. A plain English description of the bill is at

<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2010/BA/2010SB-00186-R000163-BA.htm>

Testimony on the bill can be found at

http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/CommDocTmyBill.asp?comm_code=GL&bill=SB-00186&doc_year=2010

Remember to include the **audience** (even though I gave it to you above) and **where you looked for guidance** about how to write effective testimony. Make clear in your testimony who you are representing.