

HAD ENOUGH?



Tips to Form Effective Testimony

Tips for Creating Effective Public Testimony:

- Make it personal – talk about who you are and what expertise you bring (as a person living with HIV, someone working in the field, a concerned community member)
- Don't just complain – offer solutions (talk about what's working in addition to what can be done better)
- Keep your recommendations succinct and to the point. Brief and to-the-point comments may have more impact than long-winded testimonies.

WORK SHEET TO HELP PREPARE TESTIMONY

Introduction:

Name:

Background info about me:

My issue relates to:

Budget Cuts Cuts to Medicaid

The problem with this issue:

Why this issue is important to you (your story):

What are the consequences of not solving this problem:

What positive things will happen if they do address the problem:

What I am asking for:

Oppose HIV funding cuts to the FY 2013 budget

Oppose cuts to Medicaid in the FY 2013 budget

SAMPLE WORKSHEET

Introduction:

Name: *John Smith*

About my community: *Uptown, Chicago, in your district*

Background info about me: *I'm an HIV-positive individual who receives HIV services*

My issue relates to:

■ Budget cuts

HIV/AIDS services are vital to the over 46,000 HIV-positive people in Illinois, but could face cuts.

The problem with this issue:

HIV prevention, care and housing services are crucial to the overall health and wellbeing of our communities.

Why this issue is important to you (your story):

I am HIV-positive and receive health care and supportive services at a local clinic. Because of the support of my doctors and case manager, I've been able to maintain my treatment regimen, control my health and maintain a full-time job.

What are the consequences of not solving this problem:

Because of budget cuts, I fear the services that I need might vanish and the center could close down. Many people could lose their jobs, and without doctors and my case manager, I might go without health care and could become sick and be unable to work. I'd have to go on public assistance and could become disabled by my health status.

What positive things will happen if they do address the problem:

By providing adequate funding for HIV services, you will help preserve the prevention and care system that has helped people at risk of and living with HIV get the medicine, care and services that keep us healthy, working and paying taxes.

What I am asking for:

Oppose any funding cuts to HIV services in the FY2013 budget.