

## Give Testimony before Legislative Bodies

Young people have two distinct advantages over adults when it comes to testifying before legislative bodies --- they stand out in the usual crowd of adults, and committee members know that children have no vested interest in getting a particular law passed other than their own passionate belief that the law will protect people or their natural surroundings. Helping shape legislation this way is an extremely empowering and exciting experience for young people. It can set the foundation for a lifetime of activism and community involvement. In order to give effective testimony, youth will need to prepare in advance. (source: [kidscanmakeadifference.org](http://kidscanmakeadifference.org))

Have a group of youth write letters to legislative bodies. Have some of the youth set up an appointment with a legislator or one of his/her representatives. Allow the youth, or a few representatives, to carry their letters to the meeting with the government official(s). Be certain the youth learn enough about the topic that they will appear informed when they make their presentation. When the youth present their view/proposition to the legislator, it is important that they identify themselves, explain why the issue is important to them, their school, their community, etc.