

H.2066 Testimony Guide

Hearing Details:

- The hearing is scheduled for **Thursday, November 20, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm** Click here for the Hearing Details: <https://malegislature.gov/Events/Hearings/Detail/5470>.
- The hearing is **hybrid** – you can testify in person in Room B-1 at the State House, or online via Microsoft Teams. It will also be live-streamed on the State House website.
- You must register by Friday, **November 14, at 3 pm** to testify in person or virtually at the hearing. **Register here:**
https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=a36UCyb_E0uuHFc8Z1DIiAKqn8DEYFxJoe9Ad0JIbdUMDhFOUNINFVSM0ZQWTMwVIREN0k5OVJWVi4u&route=shorturl.
- If you need help registering, contact Kat at ktorresradisic@bostoncil.org or 978-893-8100.
- Even if you are not sure whether you will be able to provide oral testimony on that day, we encourage you to sign up!
- If you have accessibility needs, fill out this form or contact Kat at ktorresradisic@bostoncil.org or 978-893-8100.

Testifying In-Person:

- **We encourage you to attend the state house to testify in person, if possible.** Having a large group of people in one room supporting the same bill can make a significant impression on the committee. Of course, we know that's not possible for everyone, and having a remote option makes it more accessible. Please testify virtually if that works best for you.
- If you're testifying in person, the hearing will be held in **Room B-1**. The accessible entrance to the State House is located on the side of the building on Bowdoin Street, and a ramp leads to the door. If you're using The RIDE, please use the Capitol Coffee House, located at 122 Bowdoin Street, as your drop-off point. This is across the street from the Bowdoin Street entrance.

Testifying Remotely:

- The virtual platform for giving testimony is **Microsoft Teams**. If you've registered, you will receive an email with instructions on how to join the Teams call. You can also likely participate by phone if Teams itself doesn't work for you.
- It is highly recommended to download the Microsoft Teams app to your device before the hearing.
- People testifying virtually will likely be called after those testifying in person. If you have time constraints, please get in touch with Kat at ktorresradisic@bostoncil.org or 978-893-8100, and/or reach out to the committee to inquire about being called earlier (note that there are no guarantees they will accommodate this request).

Preparing Oral Testimony:

- Each person has **2 minutes** to give oral testimony.
- A 3-minute speech is approximately 250-300 words for the average speaker; however, everyone speaks at a different speed, so practice speaking out loud at home and time yourself.
- If you need help, see below a template you can fill in. Please fill out the bracketed sections.
- If you have more to say than you have time for, remember you can submit a more extended version as written testimony - see below for instructions.
- Focus on your personal story, including the details and how it impacted you. See below for a sample template.
- If you would like help writing or practicing your testimony, or coming up with ideas for what to say in it, please contact Kat at ktorresradisic@bostoncil.org or 978-893-8100.

Preparing Written Testimony:

- **Written testimony is accepted until Friday, November 21, at 5 pm.**
- Write your testimony. If you need help, see below a template you can fill in. Please fill out the bracketed sections.
- Send your testimony to the Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development.
- Use this as your subject line: **Written Testimony in Support of H.2066**

- You can include your testimony in an attached .doc or .pdf document or the body of the email.
- Email your testimony to labor.workforce.development@gmail.com
- Cc your state legislators on the email. You can find your legislators and their emails by going to <https://malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator>.
- Bcc ktorresradisic@bostoncil.org so we can keep track of who and how many people have submitted testimony.
- If you need someone to email your testimony to the committee on your behalf or have questions about what to include in your testimony, please contact Kat at ktorresradisic@bostoncil.org or 978-893-8100.

Oral Testimony Template:

Thank you, Chairs and Vice Chairs, for the opportunity to speak today in support of H.2600, "An Act to Impose Fines on Transportation Network Drivers Who Discriminate Against Riders with Disabilities Who Use Service Animals."

My name is [Name], and I live in [Town]. *[Add a sentence or two about your disability and your reliance on Uber and Lyft for transportation.]*

I would like to share my experience with ride refusals. *[Spend about a minute telling your story or recounting specific instances when you faced a ride refusal, moments when you felt your safety was at risk due to a refusal, or times when you submitted a complaint and never received a response, or when the resolution was unsatisfactory.]*

[In your story, address the following questions: What happened? What was your experience like? What impact did this experience have on your mental and physical well-being? What would need to happen for you to trust the service again?]

H.2600 will help prevent me and others from facing such experiences in the future. *[Add a sentence or two explaining why the disability community needs this bill and how it would enhance the quality of service and improve your quality of life.]*

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my story and the experiences of my community. I urge you to support H.2600 and vote favorably for it to move out of committee. Thank you.

Written Testimony Template:

[Date]

Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development

Support for an Act to impose fines on transportation network drivers who discriminate against riders with disabilities who use service animals

H.2066 (Rep. Christine P. Barber)

Thank you, Chairs, for the opportunity to write today in support of House Bill 2066, otherwise known as "An Act to impose fines on transportation network drivers who discriminate against riders with disabilities who use service animals."

Paragraph 1: Introduction

My name is [Name], and I live in [Town]. *[Add a sentence or two about your disability and your reliance on Uber and Lyft for transportation.]*

Paragraph 2: Story (you can do more than one story! Put each new story in a different paragraph)

I would like to share my experience with ride refusals. *[Spend about a minute telling your story or recounting specific instances when you faced a ride refusal, moments when you felt your safety was at risk due to a refusal, or times when you submitted a complaint and never received a response, or when the resolution was unsatisfactory.]*

[In your story, address the following questions: What happened? What was your experience like? What impact did this experience have on your mental and physical well-being? What would need to happen for you to trust the service again?]

Paragraph 3: Connect your story to the bill

H.2600 will help prevent me and others from facing such experiences in the future. *[Add a sentence or two explaining why the disability community needs this bill and how it would enhance the quality of service and improve your quality of life.]*

Paragraph 4: Conclusion

[Anything else about why this bill is essential to you?]

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my story and the experiences of my community. I urge you to support H.2600 and vote favorably for it to move out of committee. Thank you.

Sincerely,

[Name] or/and [Organization]

[Home Address]

[Phone Number]