



Are you interested in advocating for the healthy and active environments where children live, learn and play? If so, then it is critically important for you to fight for effective health-related policies at the city, state and federal levels. When lawmakers are in session, children need **you** to be their voice. Fortunately, our State government makes this possible.

In the State of Illinois, our House and Senate provide an online venue for citizens over the age of 13 to participate in the legislative process by filing **witness slips** online. While it is always important to contact your representatives about important issues, the only time that your opinion is officially recorded in the decision-making is when a bill is discussed in committee. During the hearing on legislation, the committee chairperson may choose to read the list of witnesses that have filed slips for or against a proposed bill.

The forms are considered to be public record and should be able to be verified.

To file a witness slip and record your support or opposition for a piece of legislation, follow these steps:

1. Go to: <http://witnessslips.ilga.gov> for the Illinois General Assembly home page
2. Enter the bill number in the menu on the left and identify if the bill has been assigned to a committee
3. Return to the home page and select "GA Dashboard"
4. In the left menu, choose "Register" and complete the steps to build your profile. You can choose to skip this, but it will save you time if you return to file future witness slips
5. Return to the GA Dashboard
6. If the committee reviewing your bill is meeting **that day**, it will be noted in the calendar on the GA Dashboard landing page. Click the icon on the right side of the page for "View Hearing Details"
  - a. The bills being reviewed in that committee will now be listed. In the right column, you can select a witness slip and register your support or opposition for that bill
7. If your committee is meeting in the future, click "House" or "Senate" on the left menu and then select "Committees"
  - a. Locate your committee in the list, and in the right column, select the middle icon for "View Committee Hearings"
  - b. Each scheduled hearing will now have a link in the right column. Select "View Legislation"
  - c. The bills being reviewed in that committee session will now be listed. In the right column, you can select a witness slip and register your support or opposition for that bill

Please note, when completing your profile or filing a slip without creating a profile, the form will ask for you for your organization and title. These can be filled out in any manner (e.g., "Illinois Voter," "Concerned Citizen") but must be filled out. The section "Representation" is for people who are officially representing an organization (i.e., registered lobbyists). Do not complete this section if you are not a registered lobbyist.

It is also important to note that for a bill being reviewed in the House, witness slips can only be filed up to end of the committee session. For bills being reviewed in the Senate, you have until the end of the calendar day upon which the bill was reviewed in committee.