For members of the public wishing to provide oral testimony:

- Be aware that Capitol Police are conducting entry screening, similar to airport screening procedures, of all visitors to the Maine State House.

- Plan your testimony to be 3 minutes or less (this will be strictly enforced) – your written submittal can be as long as you want.

- If you want to give the committee any written materials, submit 40 copies to the committee clerk for distribution. This will ensure that AFA and the Policy Committee of jurisdiction and their respective staffs receive copies.

- Written testimony or back-up materials should include your name and contact information.

- Fill in the sign-up sheet. The sheets will be located either in the hallway outside of the committee room or inside the committee room. Sign-ups will begin at 8:00 am for the morning hearings and 11:00 am for the afternoon hearings. There will be no sign-ups after 5:00 pm though testimony will continue.

- If you are speaking on behalf of a group of people who wish to stand at the podium with you, please note the number after your name (e.g. Jane Doe (3))

- There will be a separate sign-up sheet for each policy committee of jurisdiction on each day (e.g. Insurance and Financial Services on Wednesday, Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development and Taxation on Thursday).

- On Friday the 25th, there will be TWO sign-up sheets for Education: one for the cultural agencies, higher education and FAME and a separate sheet for the Department of Education.

- On Monday the 28th there will be TWO sign-up sheets for Health and Human Services: one for the morning block (Fund for a Healthy Maine and Elder Services) and another for the afternoon block (Medical Care Payments to Providers, General Assistance, Adult Mental Health and Substance Abuse).

- You will not be allowed into the committee room prior to the start of sign-ups for the morning or afternoon hearing block. Other waiting rooms will be available.

- If the committee room is full you may wait and listen to the proceedings in the Welcome Center. The Chairs may periodically ask those not waiting to speak to leave. This will allow other interested parties a chance to attend the proceedings in person. If you are part of a group that is asked to leave you may go to the Welcome Center. Thank you, in advance, for your understanding and cooperation.

- When it’s approaching your time to speak, the Chairs will call your name. Please note that the Chairs may call a name out of order to ensure that they have heard testimony on most (and, hopefully, all) of the initiatives within a hearing block. If your name was called out of order and you were not able to respond, it will be recalled in its normal sequence.

- The Chairs will periodically announce the next few speakers to give those waiting in the Welcome Center or other “Listening Rooms” a chance to get to the committee room.

- When it’s your turn to speak give the committee clerk any written materials you want distributed. The clerk will be to your right as you face the committee.
If you do not want to give oral testimony but want to express your opinion:

Come to the 2nd floor of the State House on the day of the hearing, fill out a “Comment Sheet” and put it in the specially marked box.

Or send an e-mail to holly.mullen@legislature.maine.gov and she will forward your comments to the committee members.

Or mail your comments to: AFA Committee, 5 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333