Congressional Testimony

CCC Leadership in Science Policy Institute

Fred B. Schneider
Samuel B. Eckert Professor of Computer Science
Cornell University
Ithaca, New York 14853
U.S.A.
fbs@cs.cornell.edu
Congressional Testimony

- Committee on Science and Technology, Research and Science Education Subcommittee, hearing June 10, 2009 on Cybersecurity R&D. (Schneider)
- Committee on Science and Technology, Technology and Innovation Subcommittee, hearing October 22, 2009 on Cybersecurity Activities at NIST’s Information Technology Laboratory. (Schneider)
- Armed Services Committee, Terrorism, Unconventional Threats, and Capabilities Subcommittee, hearing February 25, 2010 on Private Sector Perspectives on Department of Defense Information Technology and Cybersecurity Activities. (Schneider)
- Committee on Science and Technology, Research and Technology Subcommittee, hearing on Oct 28, 2015 on A review of the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Program. (Hager)
A Congressional Hearing

Mechanics of being a witness...

- Discussion with Cmte Staff
  - Invitation only after they have heard your views
  - You pay for travel etc.

- Submit written statement
  - CRA and other orgs can help you with polishing and details

- Deliver 5 min oral statement
  - Likely different from your written statement

- Q+A with Cmte (5 min / member)

- Respond to post-hearing written questions.
The Big Day: Presentation

Acknowledgment: Gene Spafford, Purdue Univ.
http://spaf.cerias.purdue.edu/usgov/testimony.html

- Read bio and testimony of other panelists
- Practice (reading) your 5 min speech. And again. And again. And again. ... With a stop watch.
- 5 minutes is a hard deadline.
The Big Day: Logistics

- Read the *Washington Post* that morning
- Dress appropriately
- Visit the rest room.
- Members will come and go. Ignore it.
The Big Day: The Question Period

Question period: 5 minutes per member

- Short answers help to cover more ground
  - Good responders ultimately get more air time.
  - Don’t interrupt. But happily embrace interruptions.
- You can’t explain the nuances, so don’t try.
- You are not obligated to answer. Or you can promise data / details in a written follow-up
- Questions are often written by staff. Make the best of the question. (“The premise makes no sense…” is the wrong answer.)
- This is not a debate. Do not direct comments to other witnesses and do not respond to the points they have made.

Acknowledgment: Gene Spafford, Purdue Univ.
http://spaf.cerias.purdue.edu/usgov/testimony.html