#### SAMPLE TESTIMONY FORMAT (for Orgs, Allies, non-direct impacted)

**Written Testimony of HB7212**

**In SUPPORT of H.B. No. 7212 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRUST ACT**

**March 19, 2025**

**Judiciary Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly**

Dear Senator Winfield, Representative Stafstrom, and members of the Judiciary Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly,

My name is X, and I am a resident of X, Connecticut. I am a member of [ORGANIZATION] and part of [your coalition if relevant]. I am writing in support of H.B. No. 7212, An Act Concerning the Trust Act. This bill represents an important step in protecting Connecticut’s immigrant communities, but it does not fully address the breadth of challenges our immigrant community members are facing. This is why I support HB7212 with the proposed amendments offered by the TRUST Act Now Coalition, composed of the **Connecticut Immigrant Support Network**, **ACLU, the Yale WIRAC Clinic, and other community organizations.**

[In your own words as much as possible outline what you support about HB7212, and what you feel needs to be stronger in the bill. The coalition has put together the following points below of what we support and what should be stronger. DO NOT just copy and paste this your testimony, you may pick a few points or edit in your own words]

We believe that HB 7212 is a good start to strengthening the TRUST Act and I support:

* Keeping Connecticut officials and resources out of federal immigration enforcement by requiring officers to forward requests for cooperation to agency heads; prohibiting law enforcement agencies from sharing custody release information unless already publicly available; and banning law enforcement officers from performing federal immigration functions.
* Limiting unnecessary data collection and data sharing by barring law enforcement and public agencies from collecting or sharing immigration status information.
* Protecting the civil rights of all people in Connecticut, including those in the criminal legal system, by prohibiting the use of federal immigration officers as interpreters.

HB 7212 is a vital tool that will protect Connecticut against federal overreach- and I believe you have the power and moral responsibility to make this bill stronger with the Coalition’s proposed amendments, including the following:

* Prohibiting law enforcement agencies from providing other forms of assistance, such as sharing surveillance footage or setting up traffic perimeters, to immigration authorities.
* Preventing people who have been previously convicted of a felony from being held without a warrant. It ensures that people receive information about their right not to disclose their immigration status in a language they can understand.
* Prohibiting the Connecticut National Guard from assisting with federal immigration enforcement while under state command. It also bans other states’ militias from operating in Connecticut without the Governor’s approval.
* Bill prohibiting ICE arrests at courthouses, including while people travel to and leave the courthouse. It also empowers judges to enforce this rule.
* Establishing a public hotline for reporting violations of the Act, managed by the Attorney General and a new oversight committee. It also grants individuals the right to sue for violations of the Act.

[Insert a story of how you, someone you know, or your community was impacted by a violation to the Trust Act OR how the improvements to the Trust Act benefit you or your community. The goal is to explain why this issue is important to you. Some questions to think about as you write are below]

* What is your personal connection to immigration enforcement?
* How did your own experiences with the immigration system motivate you to speak out in support of the immigration community?
* How will this legislation help you or your immigrant community?

Last, close and thank them. Here’s an example:

I urge you to supportH.B. No. 7212 based on the recommendations submitted by the **Connecticut Immigrant Support Network,** **ACLU and the Yale WIRAC Law Clinic.** Additionally, **I urge you to oppose HB7211, as it would undermine the current Trust Act** that is law and create new loopholes within the law, opening the door for more violations, which will harm our community. The Judiciary committee has the power to be proactive so our state can be ready to stand against federal overreach and ensure we have the power to decide how state and local resources are utilized.

When local police are perceived as agents for ICE, any immigrant victims and witnesses will hesitate to cooperate with police, undermining public safety for everyone. HB7212 works to foster trust between the community and law enforcement. These improvements to the Trust Act will send a strong message that Connecticut will protect the safety and humanity of all its residents, regardless of immigration status. By enacting these amendments, Connecticut will reaffirm its commitment to dignity and justice for all.

Thank you,

*[Your Full Name & Town]*

#### SAMPLE TESTIMONY FORMAT (for directly impacted)

**Written Testimony of HB7212**

**In SUPPORT of H.B. No. 7212 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRUST ACT**

**March 19, 2025**

 Judiciary Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly

Dear Senator Winfield, Representative Stafstrom, and members of the Judiciary Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly,

My name is X, and I am a resident of X, Connecticut. I am a member of [ORGANIZATION] and part of [your coalition if relevant]. I am writing in support of H.B. No. 7212, An Act Concerning the Trust Act. This bill represents an important step in protecting Connecticut’s immigrant communities, but it does not fully address the breadth of challenges our immigrant community members are facing. This is why I support HB7212 with the proposed amendments offered by the TRUST Act Now Coalition, composed of the **Connecticut Immigrant Support Network**, **ACLU, and the Yale WIRAC Clinic, and other community organizations.**

[Share with legislators why this issue is important to you. Some questions to think about as you write are below, please write 1-3 sentences for each question. Focus on YOUR and your community’s story. Testimony writing is about using our experiences to build support for legislation we need]

1) Who are you and why does an improved TRUST Act matter to you? This is a place to introduce yourself and why you care about the issue. A good start is:

I am . . . and I care about this because . . …

2) Why do you believe CT needs a stronger TRUST act? Example of how to start:

I believe that CT needs a strong TRUST Act because.....

3 ) How would a strong TRUST Act help you, your family, or your community? You can share personally how it would impact you, or you could share some facts about how it would help CT (you can use the talking points below)! Example of how to start:

A stronger TRUST Act would help me and my community by .....

Last, close and thank them. Here’s an example:

I urge you to supportH.B. No. 7212 based on the recommendations submitted by the **Connecticut Immigrant Support Network,** **ACLU and the Yale WIRAC Law Clinic.** Additionally, **I urge you to oppose HB7211, as it would undermine the current Trust Act**, opening the door for more violations, which will harm our community. When local police are perceived as agents for ICE, immigrant victims will hesitate to cooperate with police, undermining public safety for everyone. HB7212 works to create trust between the community and law enforcement. These improvements to the Trust Act will send a strong message that Connecticut will protect the safety of all its residents, regardless of immigration status.

Thank you,

*[Your Full Name & Town]*