

# House Hearing Room Rules: A Reminder

The House of Representatives works under a set of rules that allow respectful, courteous debate on sometimes contentious issues. This protocol extends to the galleries and committee hearing rooms.

The public is encouraged to visit the Capitol and to watch their lawmakers in action. According to legislative rules adopted by the body as a whole, this observation must be quiet and respectful. These rules prohibit, among other things:

- Signs, banners, placards, or other props that could be construed as an effort to promote demonstrations;
- Audible or visual signals from the audience to the dais, including whistling, calling, chanting, or waving;
- Animals, other than service animals;
- Applause and/or demonstrations;
- Umbrellas, strollers, camera tripods, sticks, or similar items that could block movement or take up seating space in the hearing room;
- Open-carried weapons such as guns, firearms, and blades;
- Food and beverages;
- Large cases and packages.

These rules of decorum are equally enforced on all people in the legislative galleries and committee hearing rooms, just as legislators' rules of conduct are enforced.