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SENATE CHAMBER

DAVID B. HALEY
SENATOR
DISTRICT 4
WYANDOTTE COUNTY

17th MARCH 2025
ST. PATRICK'S DAY

BEFORE THE KANSAS SENATE WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE
IN RE : SENATE BILL 290

Funding for State Historical Society ... for the Quindaro Ruins Archaeological Park in Wyandotte County

PROPONENT

To The Chair, Vice-Chair, Ranking Minority & Other Honorable Committee Members:

Thank you for due consideration today and, prayerfully in advance, for working and passing this Bill.

Though fewer than twenty-four short lines in length, Senate Bill 290 will provide volumes of progress towards the implementation of arguably the greatest unexpurgated story of solidarity, liberty and cultural immersion ever to be found in Kansas' history; if not in the Midwest's or maybe, even, of the entire U.S.

I was born at the old Douglass Hospital, once operated by the respectable A.M.E. Church, within the zone of the old Quindaro Township ("Ruins"). All my life, I, and untold thousands of others, have learned and marveled at the wonder of this miraculous township of, first, the Kansas Territory and then of the State of Kansas. Now as the Senator for the District which wholly contains the old Quindaro Township ("Ruins"), one of the first Senate Resolutions I authored and saw passed into law declared Quindaro a Historic site and requested the State take note and promote its prominent place in American, especially Kansas Territory, then State, history. **That was over a quarter of a century ago.**

SB 290 will, at long last, provide funding to a respected entity, our State Historical Society; neutral, capable and earnest, to immediately devise and subsequently implement a Master Plan designed to fully illuminate and share to eager tourists, history buffs, travelers, residents and more our profound story of neighbors, composed of different colors and cultures, living and thriving *together* in an *integrated* Township...in the mid 1800's in America; well before the concept of such harmony was universal.

Please look beyond out of State residents who pretend to have some legitimacy to constantly have a right to thwart our County's pride in meaningful development. Often contributing no taxable benefit to our County and State, nor devising any genuine worthwhile plan themselves, as we approach the once in a lifetime opportunity to showcase our State's true beauty to thousands of FIFA sports tourists, I plead you join with every viable Wyandotte Countians' plea to move Quindaro ahead and ignore this outside entity perpetuating a glaring economic blight on our treasured, hallowed grounds. *Further*, please consider amending **SB 290** to enactment upon publication in the Kansas register.

Chair and Members, I am dedicated to stand for any questions at the appropriate time. Thank you again.