

March 17th, 2025

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
State Capitol
300 SW 10th Street
Topeka, KS 66612

Re: Health Forward Foundation support for Senate Bill 290 – master plan for the Quindaro ruins archaeological park in Wyandotte county, Kansas.

Chair Billinger and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Health Forward Foundation (Health Forward), I submit this letter of testimony in support of Senate Bill 290. Health Forward works to support and build inclusive, powerful, and healthy communities. We support the allocation of funding for the Kansas state historical society to issue a scope statement, plan the work to be accomplished, and issue a request for proposals for a master plan for the Quindaro ruins archaeological park in Wyandotte county, Kansas. Where we live determines our physical and mental health, quality of life, access to education and economic outcomes. Consequently, historic preservation offers a range of benefits, both tangible and intangible, that contribute to the cultural, economic, and environmental well-being of a community.

According to the [Advisory Council on Historic Preservation](#), preserving historic buildings/sites can improve property values in surrounding neighborhoods. Well-maintained historic structures contribute to neighborhood revitalization and make an area more attractive for investment. Subsequently, this legislation would be supportive and aligned with broader economic redevelopment strategies and activities – planned and ongoing – for eastern Wyandotte County [by local government](#).

Additionally, a report by the [Urban Land Institute](#) showed that historic preservation helps maintain a community's history, traditions, and cultural identity. This was especially important to former Kansas State Representative Marvin Robinson, who championed the preservation of the Quindaro Ruins historical site during his time serving in the State Legislature. He believed that the Quindaro Ruins site was an important link to the past, offering future generations the opportunity to understand and appreciate their heritage.

Consequently, we encourage members of this committee to vote “Yes” on SB 290 and support historical preservation efforts such as this which help to create sustainable and healthy communities for all Kansans. Please feel free to contact me at rgibson@healthforward.org if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Robert Gibson, M.S, M.P.H.
Impact Strategist - Policy
Health Forward Foundation

**OUR
PURPOSE**

Every day we work to support and build inclusive, powerful, and healthy communities characterized by racial equity and economically just systems.