

STATE OF KANSAS

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TOPEKA

SENATE CHAMBER  
MAJORITY WHIP

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

CHAIR: ETHICS, ELECTIONS &  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
MEMBER: JUDICIARY  
UTILITIES

JOINT COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:  
CAPITOL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE  
LEGISLATIVE POST AUDIT COMMITTEE

**Senate Ways and Means Committee  
Testimony in Support of SB262  
January 17, 2018**

Thank you for your time today to testify in support of SB262. This bill was presented to the Capitol Preservation Committee during the interim, and will allow the installation of the Eisenhower Statue on the Capitol grounds. The placement of future statues requires legislative approval on the grounds. No money is requested in this bill as the funds have been raised and the project can begin in 2018.

We have a few guests with us today I'd like to introduce: Jennie Chinn, Chairperson on the Capitol Preservation Committee and the Executive Director of the Kansas Historical Society, Senator Randall Hardy (Senator for Abilene Kansas - District #24 – President Eisenhower's hometown), John Milburn, Kansas Department of Administration and Merrill Eisenhower Atwater, Great Grandson of President Eisenhower. Senator Hardy and Merrill Atwater will speak to you as well on behalf of this bill.

Just a brief history of the Capitol Preservation Committee – it was created by the Kansas Legislature in 2010 to approve renovation proposals in all areas of the Capitol, the Capitol Visitor Center, and the Capitol grounds to ensure the historical beauty of the areas is preserved, preserve the proper decor of those areas, assure that any art or artistic displays are historically accurate and have historic significance, approve the location and types of temporary displays, and oversee the reconfiguration or redecoration of committee rooms within the Capitol. As provided by KSA 2016 Supp. 75-2269, the Division of Legislative Administrative Services has the responsibility of implementing the recommendations of the Committee. The Committee is made up of 12 members, with the Governor appointing 3, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House each appointing 2, and the Minority Leaders of the House and Senate each appointing 1. The Committee's three ex officio members are the Statehouse Architect, the Executive Director of the State Historical Society, and the Director of the Creative Arts Industries Commission. The Governor has the authority to appoint the chairperson from the Committee's membership. Current membership of the committee is listed below:

**Chairperson:** Jennie Chinn

**Senate**

Sen. Elaine Bowers

**House**

Rep. Fred Patton

Rep. Valdenia Winn

**Ex Officio Members**

Frank Burnam

Peter Jasso

**Non-Legislative Members**

Kim Borchers

Melinda Gaul

Tim Graham

Harrison Hems

Jeremy Stohs (one vacancy)

You can find the minutes and the Committee recommendations to the Legislature from the December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017, meeting online. Just a few highlights to mention to you – the Brown v. Board of Education Mural is stated to be finished February 1, 2018, which will be placed on the wall of the Supreme Court on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor with private funds raised to date of \$79,000 with a balance of \$31,000 yet to be raised. February 22<sup>nd</sup>, is the tentative ceremonial unveiling of the mural. The visitor center county map and the Overmyer murals are being monitored for deterioration, the completion of the Ad Astra Plaza on the southwest corner of the grounds, expansion of the law enforcement memorial, and finally new signs around the complex to direct visitors to the north entrance and “you are here” dots on existing maps found around the capital. Chairperson Chinn can answer any questions you may have about these projects.

There is one suggestion for an amendment – we would like to recommend a change to the bill from enactment in the statute book to the Register so construction can begin sooner if possible. Once again, I am honored to sponsor this bill on behalf of the Capitol Preservation along with Senator Hardy and would like to introduce the other conferees -