

**Senate Bill 140**  
**Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation**

**Submitted by Mary Eisenhower**  
**February 19, 2019**

On behalf of the family of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, I thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation to express our family's support for Senate Bill 140.

Senate Bill 140 creates a state income tax credit for contributions to the Eisenhower Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization based in Abilene and founded in 1945. The credit would equal an amount equal to 70 percent of the total amount contributed during a taxable year. The maximum credit available to an individual taxpayer in a single year would be capped at \$25,000 while the maximum credit available to a corporate taxpayer would be \$50,000. The aggregate amount of tax credits in any single fiscal year could not exceed \$350,000.

Over 200,000 visitors a year come to the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum which opened in 1962. It is one of only 14 Presidential libraries. The Eisenhower Boyhood Home opened in 1948 and the original Eisenhower Museum opened in 1954. Today, the Eisenhower complex includes five buildings on 22 acres.

The Presidential Library is a research gold mine to scholars of World War I, the interwar years, World War II, the Cold War, Presidents and American history. It houses over 26 million pages of historical records, more than 334,000 photographs, almost 768,000 feet of motion picture film and more than 70,000 artifacts. This is a true Kansas gem and a public asset for all Kansans.

The National Archives and Records Administration provides for the physical structures on the Eisenhower complex as well as for the security and preservation needs of the various archival collections in the Library and Museum. However, the Foundation is responsible for the exhibits, programs and events at the Library and Museum.

The Foundation recently raised \$9 million in private donations to fund the first comprehensive exhibit renovation since the 1970's. This was the largest fundraising campaign in the Foundation's history. While I am proud to report that all of the money raised went to the Museum renovations, this unfortunately means that nothing is retained by the Foundation. Among the 14 Presidential Foundations, the Eisenhower Foundation ranks dead last in both endowment and annual operating budget. This limits our ability not only to maintain the museum exhibits but also to fund IKEducation, a program educating Kansas school children about the life and times of Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The Eisenhower Foundation does not receive any financial support from the State of Kansas and we are not asking for direct support today. A tax credit worth 70 cents on the dollar and with individual and aggregate limits represents a responsible investment supporting a unique public asset. While we are thankful for the Library and Museum appearing in State tourism materials, that does not help with the Foundation's mission of honoring the life and leadership of our nation's 34th President.

On behalf of the Eisenhower family, I encourage you to recommend Senate Bill 140 favorable for passage.