

STATE OF KANSAS



TOPEKA

SENATE CHAMBER

MAJORITY WHIP

**ELAINE BOWERS**

SENATOR, 36TH DISTRICT  
1326 N. 150TH RD.  
CONCORDIA, KS 66901  
(785) 243-4256

STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 223-E  
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612  
(785) 296-7389  
elaine.bowers@senate.ks.gov

**COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**  
CHAIR: ETHICS, ELECTIONS &  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

MEMBER: JUDICIARY  
UTILITIES

**JOINT COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:**  
CAPITOL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE  
LEGISLATIVE POST AUDIT COMMITTEE

Testimony in Support of SB262  
House Federal and State Affairs Committee  
February 6, 2018

Thank you for your time today to testify in support of SB262. I am truly honored to be part of this legislation. This bill was presented to the Capitol Preservation Committee during the interim, and will allow the installation of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Statue on the northwest quadrant of 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. The Senate Ways and Means Committee did make an amendment to the bill to change from enactment in the statute book to the Register so construction can begin even sooner. SB262 also passed out of the Senate 39-0.

We do have a few guests along with Senator Randall Hardy and myself and are very happy to have back Merrill Eisenhower Atwater, Great Grandson of President Eisenhower as a conferee. John Milburn, Kansas Department of Administration presented this bill to the Capitol Preservation Committee and has been very hands on from the beginning.

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 décor 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. 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. 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 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.

Once again, I am honored to sponsor SB262 on behalf of the Capitol Preservation along with Senator Hardy. It is truly an honor to recognize President Dwight D. Eisenhower with this statue on our Capital grounds in Topeka Kansas.