

Testimony of Mallory Lutz
Berryton, Kansas

Support for SB140
February 19, 2019

Chairman Tyson, members of the Committee:

My name is Mallory Lutz, and I am an associate in the firm of Little Government Relations here in Topeka. However, I appear before you today not in that capacity but instead as a proud, lifelong Kansan with an affinity for the great statesman from Abilene, Dwight D. Eisenhower. I support Senate Bill 140 because it represents a method of continuing to be good stewards of the great gift this state has in the legacy of Dwight Eisenhower and in the Eisenhower Presidential Museum and Library.

In 2014, my mom and I embarked on a quest to visit all 13 presidential libraries that exist within the National Archive system. It was a wonderful experience, and we learned much along the way - the good, the bad, the inspirational, the disappointing, that is Presidential history.

In 2018, we visited Gettysburg, and toured the home Ike and Mamie loved so well, set amongst the now peaceful terrain of former battlefields. The fact that Ike and Mamie loved that spot so well, yet Ike loved Abilene, Kansas such that he chose to plant his presidential archives there and make it their final resting place -- makes me believe it is more important than ever to honor the commitment they made by doing all we can to sustain the Foundation and what it supports.

For the last several years, I had the good fortune to work for the National Park Service as an interpretive guide at the Brown vs. Board of Education National Historic Site. I would often ask visitors to the site where they were from and why they'd chosen to stop at the site. Quite often, the answer would be, "We're on our way to the Eisenhower Presidential Museum and Library."

Kansas has a gem in Abilene. Senate Bill 140 is one way to keep that gem polished and shiny for the benefit of future generations and to honor the legacy of one of Kansas' most favorite sons. I am glad to stand today in support of this bill.

Thank you for allowing me to share my perspective, and I am pleased to answer any questions at the appropriate time.