

**Capitol Preservation Committee
Proponent Testimony to
Senate Federal and State Affairs
Senate Bill 11
January 25, 2023**

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you. I am Patrick Zollner, with the Kansas Historical Society, and the Chair of the Capitol Preservation Committee.

The Capitol Preservation Committee was created by the 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 those areas are preserved, preserve the proper decor of those areas, assure any art or artistic displays are historically accurate and have historic significance, approve the location and types of temporary displays, and oversee the reconfiguration of committee rooms within the Capitol.

When the Ad Astra statue was placed on the Statehouse Dome, the artist created a smaller replica version of the statue that was intended to be placed in *Ad Astra* Plaza. A granite base for the replica was created and placed on the plaza, along with several bronze plaques; however, there are engraved bricks for the plaza along with more bronze plaques and brick pavers that have been created but have not been installed. The family of the artist that created *Ad Astra* has possession of the replica statue and the remaining uninstalled bronze plaques and brick pavers.

A fund was established at a local Topeka foundation approximately six months prior to our committee meeting last October, and \$10,000 had already been raised at that point to complete the plaza project. We are not asking for state funding to complete this project; however, this legislation is needed so funds can be donated to an account within the State Treasury.

In short, this will allow a project that was started over twenty years ago to finally be completed.

I am happy to answer any of your questions.

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