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October 19, 2009

OPINION LETTER NO. 223-2009

The Honorable Robin Carnahan
Missouri Secretary of State
James C. Kirkpatrick State Information Center
600 West Main Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Secretary Carnahan:

This opinion letter responds to your request dated October 9, 2009, for our review under § 116.334, RSMo, of a proposed summary statement prepared for the petition submitted by Gregory Thompson regarding a proposed amendment to Article I of the Missouri Constitution. The proposed summary statement is as follows:

Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to define the term "person" to be from the beginning of biological development and grant such person constitutional rights and access to courts under the equal protection, due process, and open courts provisions of the Missouri Constitution?

Pursuant to § 116.334, RSMo, we approve the legal content and form of the proposed statement. Because our review of the statement is mandated by statute, no action that we take with respect to such review should be construed as an endorsement of the petition, nor as the expression of any view regarding the objectives of its proponents.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Koster", written over a horizontal line.

CHRIS KOSTER
Attorney General