



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF MISSOURI

JEFFERSON CITY

65102

CHRIS KOSTER
ATTORNEY GENERAL

P.O. Box 899
(573) 751-3321

February 27, 2012

OPINION LETTER NO. 113-2012

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 February 16, 2012, for our review under § 116.334, RSMo, of a proposed summary statement prepared for the petition submitted by Marc H. Ellinger regarding a proposed constitutional amendment to amend Article IX of the Missouri Constitution. The proposed summary statement is as follows:

Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to:

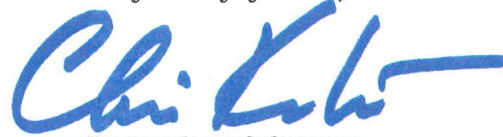
- deny any state or local funds for school districts that enter into contracts with teachers or certificated staff for longer than three years, or that use years of employment to retain, remove, promote, or demote teachers;
- require local school districts to develop new salary and performance standards for teachers; and
- require all teachers and certificated staff to serve as “at will” employees who may be dismissed or demoted without cause unless they enter into

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a contract that meets the above provisions or are covered by an existing contract with the school district?

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,



CHRIS KOSTER
Attorney General