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June 10, 2013

OPINION LETTER NO. 39-2013

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

Dear Secretary Kander:

This opinion letter responds to your request dated May 30, 2013, for our review under § 116.334, RSMo, of a proposed summary statement prepared for the petition submitted by Todd Jones regarding a proposed constitutional amendment to amend Article IX of the Missouri Constitution (2014-033). The proposed summary statement is as follows:

Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to:

- repeal the current prohibition on using state or local government funding for religious purposes;
- repeal the current prohibition on using state or local government funding to aid religious schools, academies, seminaries, colleges, universities, or any other school controlled by a religious organization; and
- repeal the current prohibition on the government granting or donating personal property or real estate for religious purposes?

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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 blue ink that reads "Chris Koster". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

CHRIS KOSTER
Attorney General