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January 4, 2016

OPINION LETTER NO. 8-2016

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 December 24, 2015, for our review under § 116.334, RSMo, of a proposed summary statement prepared for the petition submitted by Edward Greim regarding a proposed constitutional amendment to amend Article IV of the Missouri Constitution (2016-152). The proposed summary statement is as follows:

Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to:

- increase taxes on cigarettes each year through 2020, at which point this additional tax will total 60 cents per pack of 20;
- create a fee paid by cigarette wholesalers of 67 cents per pack of 20 on certain cigarettes; and
- deposit funds generated by these taxes and fees into a newly established Early Childhood Health and Education Trust Fund?

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

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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 extending to the right.

CHRIS KOSTER
Attorney General