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January 30, 2017

OPINION LETTER NO. 98-2017

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

Dear Secretary Ashcroft:

This opinion letter responds to your request dated January 24, 2017, for our review under § 116.334, RSMo, of a revised proposed summary statement prepared for the petition submitted by Marc Ellinger regarding a proposed amendment to amend Chapters 84 and 105, Revised Statutes of Missouri (2018-103). The proposed summary statement is as follows:

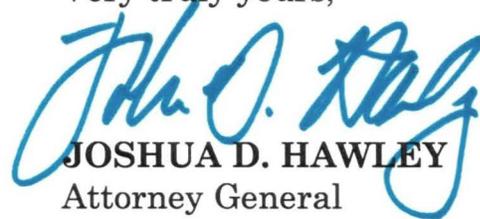
Shall Missouri law be amended to allow the transfer of a municipal police force from the board of police commission to a city of 400,000 or more inhabitants (Kansas City) which passes an ordinance accepting responsibility, ownership and liability for the police force, except that the State legal defense fund shall reimburse lawsuits or other actions which arise before transfer is complete; and prohibits any elected or appointed official from interfering with the performance or investigation of any officer, or retaliating against any officer for reporting illegal conduct?

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,


JOSHUA D. HAWLEY
Attorney General