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OPINION LETTER NO. 118-2017

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 26, 2017, for our review under § 116.334, RSMo, of a proposed summary statement prepared for the petition submitted by Damien Johnson regarding a proposed constitutional amendment to amend Article IV of the Missouri Constitution (2018-110). The proposed summary statement is as follows:

Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to remove all State prohibitions against personal use of cannabis (marijuana) by anyone over 18; for all ages upon a licensed physician's recommendation but still require parental consent for those under 21; remove any state organ transplant restrictions from cannabis use; remove cannabis from Missouri's list of Controlled Substances; release everyone incarcerated only for non-violent cannabis-only offenses, and destroy all state civil and criminal records only for non-violent cannabis-only offenses; and prohibit Missouri assisting enforcement of federal cannabis offenses?

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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,



JOSHUA D. HAWLEY
Attorney General