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OPINION LETTER NO. 14-2018

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 5, 2018, for our review under § 116.334, RSMo, of a proposed summary statement prepared for the petition submitted by Patricia Thomas regarding a proposed constitutional amendment to amend Article XIV of the Missouri Constitution, version 1 (2018-313). The proposed summary statement is as follows:

Do you want to amend the Missouri Constitution to provide that:

- employees shall have the freedom to get and keep their jobs without being forced to pay any fees to a union (labor organization) or join a union;
- public employee unions cannot deduct dues from paychecks or make political contributions without annual permission;
- public employee unions must file financial reports that will be public records and follow certain procedures;

- laws and ordinances cannot require certain wage rates (a prevailing wage) for maintenance or construction of public facilities; and
- it is a crime to purposely violate the provisions of this amendment?

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