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OPINION LETTER NO. 090_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 May 22, 2018, for our review under § 116.025, RSMo, of a proposed fair ballot language statement for the initiative petition submitted by Richard Von Glahn, version 9, relating to an amendment to Chapter 290, Revised Statutes of Missouri (2018-204). The proposed fair ballot language statement is as follows:

A "yes" vote will amend Missouri statutes to increase the state minimum wage rate as follows:

\$8.60 per hour beginning January 1, 2019;
\$9.45 per hour beginning January 1, 2020;
\$10.30 per hour beginning January 1, 2021;
\$11.15 per hour beginning January 1, 2022; and
\$12.00 per hour beginning January 1, 2023.

The amendment will exempt government employers from the above increases, and will increase the penalty for paying employees less than the minimum wage.

A "no" vote will not amend Missouri law to make

these changes to the state minimum wage law.

If passed, this measure will have no impact on taxes.

Pursuant to § 116.025, RSMo, we approve the legal content and form of the proposed fair ballot language statement.

Because our review of the fair ballot language statement is mandated by statute, no action we take with respect to such review should be construed as an endorsement of the initiative petition, nor as the expression of any view regarding the objectives of its proponents.

Very truly yours,



JOSHUA D. HAWLEY
Attorney General