



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF MISSOURI
ERIC SCHMITT

August 13, 2019

OPINION LETTER NO. 168-2019 (revised)

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:

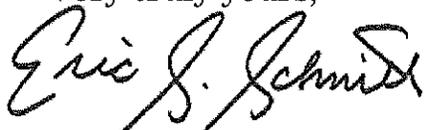
On August 12, 2019 we sent you a response to your request dated August 2, 2019, for our review under § 116.334, RSMo, of a proposed summary statement prepared for the petition submitted by Sara Baker regarding a proposed referendum to Senate Substitute for Senate Committee Substitute for House Bill 126 (2020-R001). Due to a typographical error we are reissuing our response. This response supersedes the previous opinion letter. The proposed summary statement is as follows:

Do you want to adopt House Bill 126 passed by the General Assembly in 2019, which specifically amends Missouri law to:

- provide the unborn child with the same protections as those already born;
- prohibit abortions at eight weeks of gestation (at which time there is a medically detected heartbeat), except in cases of medical emergency;
- establish successive times at which abortions are prohibited (fourteen weeks, eighteen weeks, twenty weeks, all with medical emergency exceptions) if earlier time frames are found unlawful; and
- prohibit an abortion based solely on the sex, race or Down Syndrome screening of the unborn child?

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Eric S. Schmitt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "E" and "S".

ERIC S. SCHMITT
Attorney General