



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF MISSOURI
ERIC SCHMITT

October 18, 2019

OPINION LETTER NO. 228-2019

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:

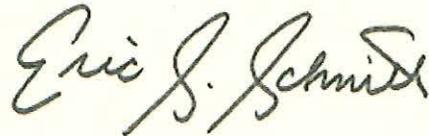
This opinion letter responds to your request dated October 10, 2019, for our review under § 116.334, RSMo, of a proposed summary statement prepared for the petition submitted by DeeAnn Aull regarding a proposed constitutional amendment to amend Article IX of the Missouri Constitution, version 4 (2020-120). The proposed summary statement is as follows:

- Do you want to amend the Missouri Constitution to:
- allow the General Assembly to enact state taxes to fund public schools without voter approval;
 - require the General Assembly to “adequately and equitably” fund public schools (and certain voluntary early childhood education programs), in an amount that could exceed the current minimum of 25% of state revenue;
 - remove the requirement to fund schools not governed by a publicly elected board, such as charter schools or unaccredited school districts;
 - make “equality of educational opportunity” through public schools a fundamental right; and
 - prohibit state and local governments from financially supporting private schools?

The Honorable John R. Ashcroft
Page 2

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, flowing style with a large initial "E".

ERIC S. SCHMITT
Attorney General