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January 26, 2009

OPINION LETTER NO. 82-2009

Honorable Robin Carnahan
Missouri Secretary of State
James C. Kirkpatrick State Information Center
600 West Main Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Secretary Carnahan:

This opinion letter responds to your request dated January 26, 2009, for our review under Section 116.334, RSMo, of a proposed summary statement prepared for the petition (version 2) submitted by Todd Jones on December 22, 2008, relating to amending Article III of the Missouri Constitution. The proposed summary statement is as follows:

Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to make it illegal for the legislature or state or local governments to expend, pay, or grant public funds to hospitals or other institutions for certain research and services, as defined by the general assembly in section 196.1127, Revised Statutes of Missouri, 2003, such as abortion services, including those necessary to save the life of the mother, and certain types of stem cell research currently allowed under Missouri law?

Pursuant to Section 116.334, 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, appearing to read "Chris Koster", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

CHRIS KOSTER
Attorney General