



MIKE DEWINE

★ OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL ★

Administration
Office 614-466-4320
Fax 614-466-5087

30 E. Broad Street, 17th Fl
Columbus, Ohio 43215
www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov

June 22, 2016

Henry L. Johnson III
3577 Countryview Dr.
Canal Winchester, Ohio 43110

Re: Submitted Petition for Initiated Constitutional Amendment
“Amendment to Return Prayer to Our Public Schools”

Dear Mr. Johnson,

In accordance with the provisions of Section 3519.01(A) of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC), a written petition bearing a copy of a proposed initiated constitutional amendment to add the “Amendment to Return Prayer to Our Public Schools” to the Ohio Constitution was submitted to this office for examination, together with a summary of that proposed amendment, on June 15, 2016.

By statute, I am required to review the summary of the proposed amendment within ten days of receiving the petition. In this instance, the tenth day falls on Saturday, June 25, 2016. Accordingly, I must complete my review by Monday, June 27, 2016.

After reviewing the submission, I conclude that I am unable to certify your summary because it does not comply with the statutory requirements set forth in ORC Sections 3519.01 and 3519.05. In particular, the individual part-petitions signed by various individuals are not properly labeled to contain both the text of a proposed amendment and separately a summary of that amendment. This deficiency is a fatal error that requires me to reject the submission.

By statute, the part-petitions that are signed by individual electors must be properly labeled to identify both the summary of the proposed amendment and the text of the amendment. ORC Sections 3519.01(B)(1) and 3519.05; *see also Schaller v. Rogers*, 10th Dist. Franklin No. 08AP-591, 2008-Ohio-4464 (Sept. 4, 2008). They must also include the language of the summary under a summary section and the language of the amendment under an amendment section. The petition forms you submitted do not contain the text of the amendment under an amendment portion of the petition. Because the part-petitions do not contain both the language of the proposed amendment and its proposed summary, I cannot certify the summary language.

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For this reason, I am unable to certify the summary as a fair and truthful statement of the proposed amendment. However, I must caution that this is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all defects in the submitted petition.

Very respectfully yours,



Mike DeWine
Ohio Attorney General

cc: Committee to Represent the Petitioners

Linda Bridges
1566 Vilardo Ln.
Columbus, Ohio 43227

Tracy Armstrong
7376 Bently Station Pl.
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

Elinor Upshaw
1647 DePorres Dr.
Columbus, Ohio 43219