



PRESS RELEASE For Immediate Release

April 28, 2014, JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.— Today, Missourians for Children’s Education announced that the campaign has fallen short of the signatures needed to place the Children’s Education Initiative (CEI) on the November 4 election ballot.

CEI would have offered state income tax credits to assist K-12 public and nonpublic school children, including children with special needs.

Over 116,000 total signatures were gathered in congressional districts throughout the state of Missouri. Assuming an 80% validity rate, the campaign estimates about 93,000 valid signatures were collected.

However, by law 167,806 valid signatures are necessary statewide with set amounts in at least six of Missouri’s eight congressional districts in order to place a proposed constitutional amendment on the election ballot.

Both the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and Catholic parishes took part in the signature gathering effort. Signatures were also gathered at shopping malls, grocery stores and various other locations.

CEI offered a new approach to promoting K-12 schooling. The tax credit was seen as a way to encourage more charitable donations to nonprofit foundations that assist public and nonpublic schools, as well as special education programs.

Barbara Swanson, chairman of Missourians for Children’s Education, expressed appreciation to all those who worked so diligently to collect signatures in support of CEI.

“The impressive number of petition signatures gathered speaks positively of the commitment of volunteers who sought many opportunities at their churches and schools making petitions available to supporters,” Swanson said. “CEI was an opportunity for public and private schools to join hands to benefit all students in Missouri. Perhaps they will do so in the future.”

If you have questions contact Mike Hoey at (573) 635-7239.

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