



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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Senators Koster and Green Vow to Push Forward with Illegal Immigration Bill *Documentation Regarding Immigration-Reform Bill Released*

JEFFERSON CITY – Legal analysis supporting the constitutionality of legislation reforming Missouri’s illegal immigration policies was presented today in a press conference by Constitutional Law Professor Kris Kobach from the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law. Professor Kobach was joined by the bill’s primary sponsors, Sens. Chris Koster, R-Harrisonville, and Tim Green, D-St. Louis, as well as a diverse group of representatives from Minuteman Civil Defense Corps and organized labor.

“We in Missouri cannot wait around for the federal government to develop a plan to deal with illegal immigration in our state,” Koster said. “The feds are failing, and the states must act. The documentation presented today provides legal proof that Senate Bill 348 will enable Missouri to use its resources to combat illegal immigration without battling federal roadblocks.”

“Every time the issue of illegal immigration is raised, government officials pound the table for a solution,” Koster said. “Every time a solution is proposed, government officials dive under the table for cover. This time will be no different. But a solution is now available, and our path forward is clear. We should be bold. We should act.”

“While the federal government has come to a standstill on the issue, illegal immigrants are living in Missouri, and corporate America is exploiting them as a source of cheap labor,” Green said. “Missouri has a clear stake in the illegal immigration problem, and Missouri has a constitutional right to solve that problem.”

Among its many provisions, SB 348 denies illegal immigrants jobs, housing, higher education and non-emergency welfare benefits. The bill also requires state and local law enforcement to take a more active role in enforcing federal immigration laws. SB 348 is considered the single-most comprehensive anti-illegal immigration proposal to be taken up by any state Legislature in the nation.

“Unscrupulous employers are paying slave wages to a cheap, illegal work force,” said Garry Kemp, President of the Kansas City Building and Construction Trades Council. “Unscrupulous employers are driving upstanding enterprises out of business and denying work to lawful Missourians.”

Professor Kobach, who provided extensive legal advice during the drafting of the 19-page bill, dubbed the “Missouri Omnibus Immigration Act,” has gained a national reputation for his work in the area of illegal immigration. Kobach is a former White House Fellow and served as counsel and chief advisor to U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft for immigration law and border security. As an attorney, Kobach is currently counsel of record in the Hazleton, Penn., and Valley Park, Mo., litigation regarding the prohibition of renting real property to illegal aliens. Kobach has also represented cases on the subject in California, Arizona and Kansas.

“Missouri has a clear right to regulate the operations within its borders,” Kobach said. “I applaud Senator Koster and Senator Green in their efforts to control what is becoming one of the largest problems facing our nation.”

The main provisions of SB 348 are as follows:

- Missouri businesses must participate in the Department of Homeland Security’s Basic Pilot Program to confirm the legal status of their employees
- Missouri property owners must confirm the legal status of their renters
- Missouri law enforcement officers are empowered to confirm the legal status of detainees under their control
- Missouri colleges and universities must verify the legal status of students
- State government social welfare agencies are restricted from paying non-emergency benefits to illegal aliens

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