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For Immediate Release:
February 10, 2005

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Senator John Cauthorn's Anti-Meth Bill Wins Senate Approval

Tougher Meth Law Limits Production

JEFFERSON CITY, MO – Local law enforcement officials joined State Senator John Cauthorn (R-Mexico) at the Adair and Marion County Courthouse to announce today's Senate passage of Cauthorn's anti-meth bill and to voice their support of this crucial piece of legislation. The bill creates major hurdles for methamphetamine producers in obtaining key ingredients.

"By classifying pseudoephedrine a Schedule V drug, only pharmacists or technicians will be able to sell these products," said Cauthorn. "Meth cooks will have limited access to this key ingredient."

Senate Bill 10, which incorporates Gov. Matt Blunt's initiatives, would change the law so that over-the-counter cold medicines containing pseudoephedrine such as Actifed and Sudafed could only be purchased from pharmacists or registered technicians. Also under this bill, an individual could not purchase more than nine grams of the medicine within a 30-day period.

All purchases would be logged in a database available for police inspection. The legislation only includes pseudoephedrine-based products in the dry-tablet form because they are easier to grind and typically used in the meth-cooking process. Gel capsules and syrup elixir will be free from the restrictions.

Pseudoephedrine products may still be sold in all current outlets in liquid or liquid gel forms. These liquids do not readily lend themselves to the production of methamphetamine.

"Law enforcement officials have been fighting meth in our communities far too long. We must continue taking the battle to the source of the problem to protect our neighbors and our communities," said Cauthorn.

Cauthorn was joined by the sponsors of the House version of the Pseudoephedrine Schedule V Bill, Representatives Bob Behnen (R-Kirkville), Scott Lipke (R-Jackson), and Wes Wagner (D-DeSoto). The measure will be sent to the House of Representatives for similar consideration. Joint passage moves the bill to the governor's desk.

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