



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

John Cauthorn
18th Senate District

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 416
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101
PHONE (573) 751-6858
TDD (573) 751-3969
FAX (573) 751-6900
EMAIL john_cauthorn@senate.state.mo.us

**For Immediate Release:
February 8, 2005**

**Contact: Jerry Dowell
(573) 751-6858**

Senator John Cauthorn's Anti-Meth Bill Wins Initial Approval *Legislation Tightens Control of Retail Products Used to Cook Meth*

JEFFERSON CITY, MO – Senator John Cauthorn, R-Mexico, today received first-round approval by the full Senate for his bill designed to curb the production of methamphetamine, an extremely addictive drug that stimulates the central nervous system.

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, Sudafed and Nyquil 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 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.

"Methamphetamine is very prevalent in Missouri, and this bill would get to the heart of the meth matter," Cauthorn said. "Unless we do something that clamps down on the supply of ingredients needed to make the drug, the use and abuse will only grow."

With his bill, Cauthorn wants to deter people from crossing Missouri's borders to buy cold pills in bulk, as well as address the fact that many criminals are behind bars in Missouri's prisons on meth-related charges. Because producing meth is extremely profitable and using meth is extremely addictive, meth cooks and users end up being jailed on repeat offenses. Recurrent meth-lab busts add to the state's incarceration costs.

Oklahoma and Oregon have been successful in lowering meth production rates by implementing laws restricting the sale of cold pills with pseudoephedrine. Other states have similar measures pending.

"With the federal and state governments working together in the fight against meth, we can stifle the number of meth makers," Cauthorn said. "Fewer makers means fewer users, and fewer users means safer streets and neighborhoods for us and our children."

A final passing vote in the Senate will send the measure to the House of Representatives for similar consideration. Joint passage moves the bill to the governor's desk.

-END-