



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

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Contact: Steven Cowen
(573) 751-6858

Senator Cauthorn's Anti-Meth Bill Gains House Approval

Legislation Awaits Governor's Signature

JEFFERSON CITY, MO – The nation's leading state in methamphetamine labs will take bold steps in curbing production with legislation passed by the Missouri House of Representatives today. Senator John Cauthorn's Senate Bill 10 received approval from both chambers and awaits anticipated signing by the governor.

"After four years of Missouri being the #1 meth producing state, we can now reverse the evil trend," said Cauthorn. "This extremely addictive drug has plagued our communities far too long - and the state is getting tough on meth cookers."

Senate Bill 10 classifies over-the-counter cold medicines containing pseudoephedrine, such as Actifed, Sudafed and Nyquil, as Schedule V drugs which can only be purchased from pharmacists or registered technicians. 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.

Only pseudoephedrine-based products in the dry-tablet form will be reclassified. This form is easier to grind and is typically used in the meth-cooking process. Gel capsules and syrup products will continue to be sold over-the-counter.

"To win the battle against the meth epidemic we must cut off producers at the supply lines," Cauthorn said.

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. Currently there are approximately 2,788 meth labs in the state.

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

"Fewer makers means fewer users, and fewer users means safer streets and neighborhoods for us and our children," said Cauthorn.

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