

Nothing is politically right that is morally wrong.

Free and fair discussion is the firmest friend of truth.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 27, 2005

General Assembly Approves Sen. Norma Champion's Anti-Meth Bill

JEFFERSON CITY – A measure co-sponsored by State Sen. Norma Champion, R- Springfield, to curb the production of methamphetamine in Missouri has received final passage today from both chambers of the General Assembly, allowing the bill to advance to governor's desk to be signed into law.

"The prevalence of meth use in Missouri is near epidemic levels, which is something that can be corrected with this legislation," Champion said. "With this bill, we can help prevent cold remedies from being used dangerously against their intent, and we can take the threat of meth off our streets, out of our neighborhoods and away from our children."

Senate Bill 10 requires that cold medicines containing pseudoephedrine or ephedrine (primary ingredients in meth production) be purchased only from pharmacists or registered pharmacy technicians. The legislation also prohibits individuals from purchasing more than nine grams of the medicine within a 30-day period. Each purchase is then logged in a database to which police have access. The legislation exempts syrup and gel-capsule forms of pseudoephedrine-based medicines, because dry-tablets are typically the form used in meth production.

"I am pleased that this measure has received such widespread support from lawmakers in both chambers," Champion said. "I expect the governor to mirror that support and with the added emergency clause on the bill, it will be no time at all before we are actively clamping down on Missouri's meth problem."

-END-