



WEEKLY REPORT

State Senator Gary Nodler
District 32



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Already Paying Off

JEFFERSON CITY— It is one thing to pass a law with good intentions. It is quite another to see those good intentions pay off. This past session, the state Legislature passed legislation aimed at curbing the production of methamphetamine, the prevalence of which has reached epidemic proportions in the Show-Me State. Judging from the significant decrease in meth-related incidents since the comprehensive meth bill was signed into law in July, it is clear that the legislation is working.

This month, the governor reported findings from the Missouri Highway Patrol proving our move to combat meth use and abuse was worth the efforts. The numbers reveal that this past August, there was a 55-percent reduction in meth-related incidents as compared to August of 2004. This marks important progress in our mission to cut off meth cooks' access to the key ingredients in making the highly addictive drug. We have restricted the sale of over-the-counter dry-tablet medicines containing pseudoephedrine, which can now only be purchased from pharmacists or certified technicians, and no more than nine grams of the medicine can be bought within a 30-day period.

To purchase the pills, customers must show ID, and their name is then logged in a database, which the police can access. The Highway Patrol reports that this portion of the new law is helping to make law enforcement agencies aware of potential meth cooks.

Although there are other states in the process of mirroring Missouri's laws, the war against meth cannot be won without a nation-wide effort. The federal

government is doing its part by moving to restore funding to local law enforcement agencies to be used to fight meth. Congress is also trying to advance the Combat Meth Act, which would move cold medicines containing pseudoephedrine behind the counter and limit how much one person can buy to 7.5 grams a month in every state. It is the most comprehensive anti-meth measure ever considered by Congress, and because it would be a federal law if passed, all 50 states could join forces to make our streets and neighborhoods safer.

*Senator Gary Nodler represents the people of Newton, Jasper
and Dade counties in the Missouri Senate.*

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