

Chris Koster
31st Senate District

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 225 JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

For Immediate Release: January 31, 2008

Contact: Chastity Young (573) 751-1430

Sen. Chris Koster Unveils Missouri Meth Project

Sweeping Legislation Combats Meth Through New Law Enhancement,

Education and Treatment Initiatives

JEFFERSON CITY — Sen. Chris Koster (D-Harrisonville) today (1/31) introduced bold legislation that takes an aggressive and sweeping approach to fighting the use and production of methamphetamines in Missouri.

"Initiatives in the past focused solely on one or two rifling actions to combat meth," Sen. Koster said. "The Missouri Meth Project is a sweeping program that covers all aspects of the fight against this deadly and destructive drug."

Highlights of the <u>Senate Bill 1063</u> include the following provisions:

- Koster seeks to include Missouri in a new "meth education project," which will raise
 awareness of the dangers of the drug and work to stop people from using in the first
 place.
- To more thoroughly track potential abuse, Koster seeks to monitor sales of pseudophedrine, the active ingredient in sinus medication like Sudafed — which contains key ingredients of meth — via an electronic database.
- Koster's bill improves pay for Sheriff's Deputies to attract the best new recruits and retain the best existing officers so law enforcement can have the resources they need to fight meth abuse.
- Koster's bill seeks to increase sentences on those who deal meth, so they don't come back into our communities any time soon.

- Koster's legislation changes the law so that people caught with meth in a home shared with children will face the additional crime of child endangerment.
- The bill requires all individuals convicted of meth possession to undergo mandatory substance abuse treatment and drug testing with supervised probation.

"The devastating effects of methamphetamines cannot be underestimated," Sen. Koster said. "We need to act without hesitation to pass stricter laws that stop the use and production of meth and protect Missouri's communities."