

For Immediate Release:
January 9, 2009

If you have any questions,
please call 573-751-2459

Sen. Jason Crowell Files Legislation to Fight Meth Production

JEFFERSON CITY – Sen. Jason Crowell (R-Cape Girardeau) recently filed legislation designed to curb meth production throughout Missouri. [Senate Bill 160](#) would require patients to have a prescription for certain medications that contain popular ingredients in the production of methamphetamine.

“Methamphetamine use and production has affected too many families, and we must continue to fight to loosen this dangerous drug’s hold on our state,” said Sen. Crowell. “My bill would make it much harder for the makers of this drug to get a hold of one of the main ingredients needed for its production.”

Senate Bill 160 would change the scheduling of ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, and phenylpropanolamine to be Schedule III controlled substances. Schedule III drugs require a prescription to be obtained. Certain dietary supplements, herbs, or natural products that contain naturally occurring ephedrine alkaloids would be exempt from the new classification. The Department of Health would also have the ability to exempt any product containing ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, or phenylpropanolamine if it is formulated to prevent conversion of the active ingredient into methamphetamine.

Sheriff John Jordan of Cape Girardeau County who is also the director of the MOSMART (the Missouri Sheriffs’ Methamphetamine Relief Team) Project, has been closely engaged in the battle against clandestine methamphetamine labs.

“I can’t stress enough how welcome Senate Bill 160 is to the law enforcement community. There is not a person living in this state that has not been affected in some way or another by the monster we call meth,” said Sheriff Jordan. “I want to thank Sen. Crowell for taking a stand to stop the madness of meth in Missouri, and I want to encourage other legislators to support Senate Bill 160.”

The legislation has also received support from law enforcement professionals throughout the state.

“At present, individuals are able to circumvent current laws by buying pseudoephedrine at different retail pharmacies that are not linked together electronically,” said Sgt. Tom Murley of the St. Louis County Police Department and Bureau of Drug Enforcement. “By making pseudoephedrine a Schedule III drug, I believe it would have an immediate positive impact on preventing individuals from purchasing cold medicine to be converted to methamphetamine.”

“The economic impact that methamphetamine has brought to Missouri is beyond comprehension. Just imagine the time required from law enforcement, the Division of Family Services, court systems, Probation and Parole, and the Department of Corrections. In addition, the money for health problems associated with meth use will be unbelievable for years to come,” said Chief Doug Rader of the Branson West Police Department. “This is very important legislation to all citizens of Missouri.”

-END-