

## 4/04/2005 Moran Sponsors Legislation to Combat Meth Production

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Legislation to Fight Meth, Support Local Law Enforcement

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran today announced his sponsorship of several legislative measures designed to combat methamphetamine use, especially in rural areas. The Moran sponsored legislation includes H.R. 314, the Combat Methamphetamine Act and H.R. 13, the Clean, Learn, Educate, Abolish, Neutralize and Undermine Production (CLEAN-UP) of Methamphetamine Act. Moran is also working to establish a methamphetamine pilot program that would provide targeted assistance to high-risk states with more than 200 meth seizures in a given year.

"Meth is a cancer growing in our rural communities," Moran said. "It is important that we reclaim our cities and towns and put an end to meth production in Kansas. This drug has taken too many of our children and destroyed too many of our families. Our law enforcement officials must have the necessary tools to combat this problem, and we must take every step necessary to tell meth dealers that they are not welcome in our state. The time to act is now."

The Combat Methamphetamine Act provides funding for law enforcement, prosecutorial training and also reclassifies pseudoephedrine as a Schedule V drug. This would require that it be stored behind pharmacists' counters, making it more difficult to steal. The legislation also provides enhanced treatment options and services for children affected by the spread of meth.

The CLEAN-UP Act includes provisions to clean farms and parks damaged by meth labs and provides assistance to schools and health care clinics to promote effective programs to keep children off of meth. It would also provide additional resources to law enforcement officials.

"Nobody in the state of Kansas has been a bigger ally in the fight against meth than Congressman Moran," said Kansas Bureau of Investigation Director Larry Welch. "He has been on the front lines with Kansas law enforcement officials since the beginning and has been with us, side-by-side, ever since. His efforts in obtaining funding for Kansas law enforcement and the KBI have benefited the state and the criminal justice system as a whole."

According to the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, in 2004, Kansas law enforcement officials seized 583 meth labs, ranking Kansas eleventh in the nation for total meth lab seizures. Moran is a member of the Methamphetamine Caucus in Congress, which is comprised of lawmakers who are dedicated to combating the spread of meth in the United States.

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