

DIANNE FEINSTEIN
CALIFORNIASELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE - CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION**United States Senate**
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504
<http://feinstein.senate.gov>

June 26, 2009

The Honorable Karen Bass
Speaker of the Assembly
State of California
1303 10th Street, Room 219
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Speaker Bass:

I write to you regarding the important legislative efforts California is pursuing to reduce the manufacture of methamphetamine, like SB484. I understand that criminal enterprises continue to look for ways to get around our laws to stop the illegal manufacture of meth and hinder those who attempt to illegally obtain pseudoephedrine.

According to the California Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement (BNE) at least 90% of the supply of pseudoephedrine, the essential precursor to methamphetamine production, is obtained through serial purchasing from retail outlets in California—so called “smurfing”. While the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act requires stores to limit sales to 3.6 grams a day some buyers are able to go from store to store to make excessive purchases. In San Diego, a local news agency conducted an undercover investigation of 16 drug stores in order to see just how much pseudoephedrine people could purchase. In one day the investigators were able to purchase 60 grams of pseudoephedrine. Out of the 16 stores, 7 sold more than they should have.

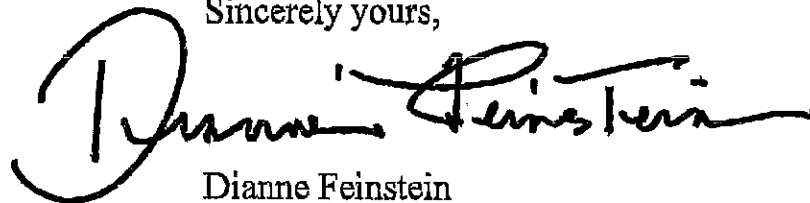
As sponsor of the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act of 2005, I recognize the importance of restricting the use of pseudoephedrine to disrupt the production of methamphetamine in the United States. While federal and state laws to control

pseudoephedrine are in place, Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs) are evading our laws as they produce methamphetamine at an increasing rate.

With the number of methamphetamine laboratories and super lab activity in California increasing according to the National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC), I believe this is the time to redouble our efforts and update our laws to meet the current threat.

As a United States Senator for California, I would like to thank you for your work to combat methamphetamine production. My hope is that we can continue to work together to find the solutions to eliminate methamphetamine use in California.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dianne Feinstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator