

# Lake Cumberland Area Drug Task Force

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Senator Roderick D. Wright  
State Capitol, Room 5064  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Wright,

I have been asked to send you this correspondence concerning my experience with Kentucky's methamphetamine problem and our state's laws concerning the MethCheck program. I am currently the Director of the Lake Cumberland Area Drug Task Force for the past seven years. Before this position I was Deputy Director of Appalachia HIDTA and Chief of Police ten years before HIDTA.

With thirty plus years of law enforcement experience and past president of our state's Chiefs of Police Association and Kentucky Narcotic Officer's Association I feel I am qualified to express Kentucky's fight and failure against methamphetamine labs.

The MethCheck program was passed by our state legislature two years ago. Our methamphetamine labs went on a decline only for a few months. My agency's expected outputs for CY2009 was estimated at ten labs shortly after our new law. Currently our meth labs total thirty-eight seized labs. We are a three county area with a population of approximately 90,000. This number of labs does not include the three sheriff's departments or the state police. What we have found is numerous individuals are purchasing pseudoephedrine just under the nine gram limit, each month, and selling it to the meth cook or trading it for a portion of the final product (meth). These individuals (smurfers as we call them) are selling a seven dollar box of Sudafed for twenty-five to fifty dollars. A Louisville Metro officer advised me last month that OxyContin dealers have stopped selling their OCs and started selling pseudoephedrine because of the greater profit made on the black market.

Last February the National Narcotics Officer's Association Coalition met in Washington D.C. It was a unanimous agreement, among our group, that Oregon's scheduling of pseudoephedrine is the only way to combat these home-made meth labs. The numbers speak for themselves. I would urge you and your colleagues to please consider passing legislation similar to Oregon. If not, California will not see a decline in meth labs just as Kentucky has not.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

David E. Gilbert  
Director