



STATE OF ARKANSAS
OFFICE OF
ARKANSAS DRUG DIRECTOR

Mike Beebe
Governor

June 18, 2009

Mr. Kent Shaw
Assistant Chief
California Department of Justice
Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement
Fax: 619-230-8175

Dear Mr. Shaw:

Thank you very much for your recent inquiry concerning Arkansas' experience with tracking pseudoephedrine purchases.

In 2005, Arkansas enacted pseudoephedrine control legislation which, among other measures, placed pseudoephedrine behind pharmacy counters and required purchasers to present identification and sign a log at the point of sale.

Soon after the legislation took effect, anecdotal evidence from Arkansas law enforcement indicated that "smurfing", the practice of traveling from pharmacy to pharmacy to buy the legal limit of pseudoephedrine at each stop, was being used by individuals to circumvent the newly enacted purchase limitations.

As a result of this "smurfing", it became apparent that Arkansas needed a coordinated system to allow law enforcement the ability to monitor purchases and identify offenders, and our Legislature enacted Act 508, under which all pharmacies were required to be connected to an electronic logbook by May 2008, and which now enables our officers to be alerted to excess purchases or purchase attempts. Despite our purchase monitoring capability, we have seen an increase in seized methamphetamine labs from 364 in 2007 to 415 in 2008. As of April 20, 2009, 139 meth labs have been seized in Arkansas, and we can expect a continued resurgence if lab seizures persist at this rate.

We are committed to exploring all measures to combat methamphetamine production, and we will be very interested in continuing our dialogue with you about California Senate Bill 484. If you have any questions or if I may assist you in any manner, please feel free to contact me at 501-554-9357 or at 501-618-8841.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frances Flener".

Frances Flener
Arkansas Drug Director

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