



Monday, April 13, 2009

Honorable Rod Wright
Member of the California Senate
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: PSEUDOEPHEDRINE & D-METHAMPHETAMINE LABORATORIES; SB 484

The Oregon State Pharmacy Association strongly encourages the California Legislature to enact your legislation (SB 484), reclassifying pseudoephedrine as a prescription only medication. Pseudoephedrine is the key ingredient necessary to make d-methamphetamine, commonly known as meth.

In 2006, Congress passed legislation restricting pseudoephedrine, requiring it be kept behind-the-counter and logging sales. That legislation, known as the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act (CMEA), dramatically reduced the incidence of meth labs throughout the nation. However, as we predicted, meth addicts quickly found a way around the CMEA through "smurfing." The tragic result is the recent resurgence of extremely dangerous meth labs, posing unacceptable risks to our families, neighborhoods, and the environment.

In contrast, Oregon passed legislation, which took effect in 2006, making pseudoephedrine a prescription drug. Since then, there have been few complaints, and little to no public outcry. Smurfing and meth labs have almost been eliminated in Oregon. We no longer have to guess what works and what doesn't.

In the spring of 2008, OSPA conducted a survey of our membership, confirming that Oregon pharmacists strongly prefer pseudoephedrine as a prescription drug. It eliminates the burdensome behind-the-counter classification and logging requirements that we previously had. Most of the nation is still following the CMEA, with disappointing results.

Legislative action is needed now, making pseudoephedrine a prescription drug, which will drastically reduce the availability of pseudoephedrine, the key ingredient necessary to manufacture d-methamphetamine.

Respectfully,

Kenneth R. Wells

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President
Oregon State Pharmacy Association