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It has long been the position of the California Alliance for Drug Endangered Children (CADEC) that children who live in substance abusing environments are victims of child abuse and/or neglect. The abuser is usually the caregiver (parent). When this occurs not only is the child affected but the family and community are harmed as well.

The purpose of CADEC is to rescue, defend, shelter and support the child victim but also to repair harm, reduce risks, and build community. This is accomplished by building a multi-disciplinary agency approach with community support.

Many of the victims (children, family and community) come as a result of clandestine drug laboratories especially those for methamphetamine. Methamphetamine labs pose a serious threat to the health and safety of children, family, community and the environment. The drug, chemicals and bi-products produced by these labs are dangerous, toxic and potentially deadly to all.

If we could find a way to reduce the number of methamphetamine labs we could significantly reduce the harm to the environment, family, community and our children. It is the belief of CADEC that SB 484 (Wright) would be an effective tool in combating the methamphetamine lab crisis. Remember in a crisis you have both danger and opportunity. Opportunity is knocking on the door of California for us to stand strong against the plague of methamphetamine that is destroying the family and community. We can wait no longer; we must be bold and fulfill our community caretaker role as public servants by supporting this bill.

Together we can break the cycle of substance abuse and violence that threatens our state.

Sincerely

Mitchel J. Brown, CADEC Chairperson