

## Final Thoughts

- “Law enforcement does not want to arrest more smurfers or find more methamphetamine labs. Law enforcement wants to eliminate smurfing and prevent methamphetamine labs.”

- *Advisory Board, National Methamphetamine & Pharmaceuticals Initiative (NMPI)*

- The Oregon alternative “offers an effective approach . . . if broadly adopted, there would be no reason to develop state or national tracking systems, resulting in substantial, ongoing savings . . .”

- *Meth Precursor Tracking Advisory Committee, National Alliance for Model State Drug Laws (NAMSDL)*

- Eleven municipalities in meth lab plagued Missouri have now adopted the Oregon system. So has the State of Mississippi, effective July 1, 2010.



HELPING HANDS STOP DRUGS

No Meth Not Here

## Contact Info

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## Questions?

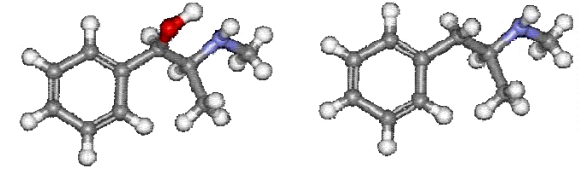
Questions? Comments? Feel free to contact me at the e-mail address or phone number listed above.

In addition, most of the studies, data, and legislation that form the basis for this pamphlet are posted at [www.oregondec.org](http://www.oregondec.org)



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## Unnecessary Epidemic



**Part 1:  
A Tragedy of Compromise**  
**Part 2:  
Meth Epidemic Solutions**

**Presented at the  
annual conference of the**



**San Diego, CA  
May 17-20, 2010**

# Unnecessary Epidemic: A Tragedy of Compromise & Meth Epidemic Solutions

- Pseudo/ephedrine (PSE) is the key ingredient necessary to make potent *d*-methamphetamine.
- In 1976, the FDA approved over-the-counter sale of PSE as a decongestant.
- An unnecessary epidemic of domestic meth labs and meth addiction soon began its tragic march across the United States, leaving destroyed lives and families in its wake.



- Strong efforts to control PSE by DEA and Congress from 1986 to 2008 were undercut or watered down through lobbying and influence by the pharmaceutical industry.
- Time and time again, legislation achieved short term success, only to be undercut by compromises and loopholes demanded by the industry.
- The current domestic meth lab problem is fueled by extensive smurfing of retail PSE products.

- Mexico and other nations have recently banned PSE - excellent news for reducing meth potency - but also more pressure to cook meth domestically.
- Group smurfing in the Midwest and South are now feeding thousands of small user meth labs, with devastating impacts on public safety and drug endangered children.



- Super smurfing throughout the West is feeding super labs run by drug trafficking organizations in Central California, providing potent *d*-meth for addicts all across our nation.
- The pharmaceutical industry and their supporters are now strongly promoting electronic tracking of PSE sales as a solution to smurfing.
- While e-tracking initially had some promising results in a handful of states in stopping illegal sales of PSE, e-tracking is now being completely evaded through group smurfing, super smurfing, and false ID smurfing.
- Yet states continue to adopt this ineffective approach - another tragic compromise and delay of a real solution.

- In 2005, the State of Oregon considered legislation to end smurfing. The simple solution: Return PSE to a prescription drug, as it was prior to 1976.
- The pharmaceutical industry fought hard against that legislation, trotting out a parade of horribles and attempting to create public outrage.
- But the legislation passed and went into effect on July 1, 2006. After nearly four years, here are the clear results:
  - Smurfing has been eliminated.
  - The parade of horribles never happened.
  - Oregon is no longer a part of the problem.
- It is time to tell the pharmaceutical industry, their supporters, and our lawmakers:
  - Enough is enough
  - No more reactive band-aids
  - No more compromises
  - No more delays
  - Be proactive
  - Implement a real solution
  - Return PSE to a prescription drug!

