

Nevada District Attorneys Association



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Senator Sheila Leslie
Assemblywoman April Mastroluca
Nevada Legislature
401 S. Carson St.
Carson City, NV 89701

Re: Support for Bill draft Request 40-648

Dear Senator Leslie and Assemblywoman Mastroluca:

The spread of methamphetamine threatens the quality of life of Nevada's citizens. To end this threat, the Nevada District Attorneys Association advocates the passage of Bill Draft Request 40-648 (BDR), which will make the precursor drugs to methamphetamine prescription only.

Pseudoephedrine (PSE) is the cold and allergy drug from which methamphetamine is formed. The difference between PSE and methamphetamine is one oxygen molecule. By removing that one molecule through a dangerous and toxic chemical process, PSE is converted from a legal medication into a highly addictive illegal drug. Limiting the availability of PSE is directly proportional to limiting the methamphetamine manufacturing process, which, in turn, diminishes the number of hazardous, clandestine labs embedded in our communities.

Initially, the Federal Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act of 2005 resulted in decreasing covert lab numbers by nearly 50 percent. These reductions resulted from statutory requirements that took cold and allergy products containing PSE off the shelves and placed them behind the counter. These laws also mandated that individuals purchasing PSE must be identified and recorded. These statutes are now rendered ineffective by organized groups that have learned to manipulate this system by a black market technique known as "smurfing," the practice of purchasing lawful amounts of PSE products at one retail outlet while making additional purchases at others. These purchases, in aggregate, exceed the limit allowed by law.

The Nevada District Attorneys Association has identified a better system to stop the spread of methamphetamine. In 2006, Oregon passed a prescription only drug law for PSE and other precursor drugs. Since 2008, Oregon experienced the largest decrease in crime rates in our nation. By 2009, Oregon's crime rate was at a 50-year low.

As a nation, the United States spends nearly \$1 billion on Drug Endangered Children due to Methamphetamine. These children are either born addicted, abused and neglected, or exposed to toxic chemicals and fumes in homespun methamphetamine laboratories. The United States spends millions of dollars caring for these children in foster care. The passage of this law will provide these innocent victims the hope and protection they need at a lower cost to society.

It's time to make the precursor drugs to methamphetamine prescription only. It is time to step up and end Meth in Nevada.

Sincere regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Neil A. Rombardo". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Neil Rombardo
President
Nevada District Attorneys Association