



Oregon Alliance for Drug Endangered Children

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www.oregondec.org

April 16, 2007

Representative
Member
Joint Ways and Means Committee

COPY

RE: **Meth Epidemic Solutions – Budget Issues**

Dear Representative

As you know, we have made a bit of progress addressing some of the collateral damage caused by the meth epidemic. One small success has been the virtual elimination of local toxic meth labs in Oregon (see attached). Another recent success has been a reduction in meth purity, and an increase in the price of meth, for the first time in nearly a decade. Those small successes have provided a **golden opportunity** to begin the process of **addressing the underlying issues of addiction and mental health**. That's where we need your help.

The good news is that science-based prevention and treatment work. Drug courts, relief nurseries, and community prevention coalitions are a few examples. The bad news is that Oregon ranks 45th in the Nation for treatment access per capita, and 49th in the Nation for treatment access among young adults. That must be corrected.

The Co-Chairs budget is a good starting point, but it does not begin the process of correcting this situation. **If not corrected, it will be a huge step backward in our efforts to address the meth epidemic in Oregon.** Attached is a spreadsheet comparing the Governor's and Co-Chair's proposed budgets in terms of addictions and mental health. Highlighted are the items of critical concern. We must restore those items of science-based prevention, treatment, recovery support, and drug court funding.

Thank you in advance for considering my thoughts. As always, please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,



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pc: Members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee
Members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services
Meth caucus (Senators Burdick and Beyer, and Representatives Macpherson and Krieger)

Rescue. Defend. Shelter. Support.