

STATE OF ALASKA THE LEGISLATURE

2006

Source
CSHCR 4(JUD)

Legislative
Resolve No.
55



Encouraging the establishment of a methamphetamine watch program.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS methamphetamine use and production is a growing threat to the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS the widespread availability of methamphetamine is illustrated by increasing numbers of methamphetamine seizures, arrests, indictments, and sentences; Anchorage, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, the Kenai Peninsula, Southeast Alaska, and Fairbanks have all experienced significant problems with methamphetamine-related crimes and methamphetamine laboratories ("meth labs"); and

WHEREAS unlike many other synthetic drugs, methamphetamine is produced inexpensively in clandestine laboratories using ordinary household chemicals; meth labs can be portable and are easily dismantled, stored, or moved; and

WHEREAS meth labs have been found in many different types of locations throughout Alaska, including homes, apartments, hotel rooms, rented storage spaces, and vehicles; and

WHEREAS the process of making methamphetamine is highly dangerous, and can

cause fires, explosions, and the release of toxic by-products into the environment; the production of one pound of methamphetamine releases poisonous gas into the atmosphere and creates five to seven pounds of toxic waste; and

WHEREAS, according to the federal Office of National Drug Control Policy, last year more than 3,000 children were rescued during seizures of more than 15,000 meth labs nationwide; and

WHEREAS "mom-and-pop" meth labs, where people prepare the drug from ingredients in common household items, are dangerous to law enforcement and emergency response personnel, and cost the state millions in court costs, cleanup expenses, and foster care costs; and

WHEREAS Kansas has developed a voluntary public/private partnership program called "Meth Watch" to combat the methamphetamine problem, and similar programs have been implemented in 11 states; and

WHEREAS the purposes of the meth watch program are to engage retailers, law enforcement officials, state and local agencies, schools, and other key partners in reducing the diversion of precursor products for the illicit manufacturing of methamphetamine, to increase awareness about the dangers of methamphetamine, to conduct a program of methamphetamine abuse awareness in public schools, and to assist communities in educating their citizens about the problems with methamphetamine abuse and meth labs;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges that a meth watch program be established in Alaska, that grants available from the federal government and private sources be applied for, that the appropriation of matching funds be requested from the state legislature if necessary, that community organizations be assisted in applying for funding and implementing local meth watch programs, and that Alaskans be educated about methamphetamine abuse and the presence of meth labs in their communities.