



October 5, 2005

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Commerce,  
Justice, and Science  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on  
Commerce, Justice, and Science  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Wolfe  
Chairman, Subcommittee on  
Science, State, Justice, and Commerce  
House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Alan Mollonhan  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on  
Science, State, Justice, and Commerce  
House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Shelby, Senator Mikulski, Representative Wolfe, and  
Representative Mollonhan:

As you begin conferencing HR 2862, The Appropriations Bill for Science, the  
Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and related agencies, we write to offer  
the perspective of Midwestern governors on language that authorizes these four key  
issues in our continued fight against methamphetamine. We urge you to consider them  
in the bill.

- Accept The Combat Meth Act as part of the appropriations bill. This bill is an  
important step in limiting the ingredients for meth. Most Midwestern  
Governors Association (MGA) states already have statutes similar to or stricter  
than the Combat Meth Act. As Governors, we recommend that the final  
conference agreement includes the substitute added by the Senate Judiciary  
Committee in July which allows states to enact stricter standards regulating the  
sale of pseudoephedrine. We feel that it is important that this legislation should  
not supersede limits passed in our states.
- Accept the Senate version of the bill that gives \$900 million to the Edward  
Byrne Justice Assistance Memorial Grant Program (Byrne-JAG). This program  
provides additional funding to local law enforcement agencies to help them  
combat meth abuse. This is important because over 95% of all drug related  
arrests nationwide are made by state and local police officers. Of these  
departments, 90% have fewer than 50 officers and this funding would allow the  
majority of the 828 state and local drug task forces to continue their important  
work.
- Accept the House version of the bill that gives \$25 million to the Residential  
Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners Program (RSAT). This program  
helps stop the revolving door at state prisons for meth users. It provides  
inmates with the necessary drug treatment so when they are released they will  
not abuse meth again and become a burden to our already overcrowded  
corrections system.

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- Accept the House version of the bill that provides \$94 million for fighting Meth Hot Spots. These are places that have been identified as areas that have an increased amount of meth traffic. The increase in funding would help local law enforcement officials put out these hot spots.

Meth use and production is a significant and complex problem in the Midwest. According to a 2004 Drug Enforcement Agency study, over 50 percent of meth lab incidents in the United States occurred in Midwestern states. MGA governors have been working hard on this issue for a number of years, as meth use has been spreading across the country. MGA governors continue to be the principal leaders in the fight against meth and are committed to aggressively combating this problem through innovative legislation and programs.

Thank you for tackling this challenging issue and we look forward to continued cooperation.

Sincerely,



Rod Blagojevich  
Illinois Governor, and  
MGA Chair



Tim Pawlenty  
Minnesota Governor, and  
MGA Vice-Chair

cc: Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and Science  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Science, State, Justice, and  
Commerce  
Midwestern Governors Association Delegation