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**MIDWESTERN GOVERNORS SUPPORT NATIONAL METHAMPHETAMINE
AWARENESS DAY**

Department of Justice will sponsor Awareness Day on November 30th.

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Washington, D.C. - The U.S. Department of Justice has announced that Nov. 30th will be National Methamphetamine Awareness Day, drawing national attention to a crucial issue that Midwestern governors have been working on for years.

Chair

Tim Pawlenty
Minnesota

Methamphetamines have been spreading through the Midwest for years. "Meth addiction is one of the steepest, most slippery slopes in our society, and too many are hitting rock bottom because of meth," said MGA chairman and Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty.

Past Chair, 2005

Rod Blagojevich
Illinois

MGA governors have been very active in combating meth. They played an active role in the passage of the Combat Meth Act this summer, and last December, the MGA hosted a regional meth summit in Indianapolis to discuss innovative approaches to the problems related to meth production and use.

Matt Blunt

Missouri

Mitch Daniels

Indiana

Jim Doyle

Wisconsin

"Methamphetamines not only destroy the lives of users, but it can pose huge dangers to families and entire communities where it is manufactured and used," said Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich, former MGA chair. "We are marshalling our resources and are committed to combating this problem through innovative legislation and initiatives."

Ernie Fletcher

Kentucky

Jennifer Granholm

Michigan

Through National Methamphetamine Awareness Day, the Department of Justice hopes to raise awareness about the effects of meth abuse.

Dave Heineman

Nebraska

U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales will host federal, state, local and community leaders to discuss the implications of meth abuse on communities in the United States. The Department of Justice hopes this opportunity will not only spread a message of prevention, but also educate current meth users on available programs.

Past Chair, 2004

John Hoeven

North Dakota

The DOJ also is teaming up with government, private-sector and nonprofit organizations in order to broaden the impact of its message. Federal officials have also released a presentation designed to be used by educators in the law enforcement community as well as by community groups and local leaders. The presentation will be posted on the Department of Justice Web site.

M. Michael Rounds

South Dakota

The MGA supports the Department's efforts as a much-needed step in the right direction, and looks forward to working more with federal officials as part of efforts to combat meth production and use.

Kathleen Sebelius

Kansas

Bob Taft

Ohio

The current members of the MGA include: Pawlenty, Blagojevich, Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels, Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack, Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm, Missouri Gov. Matt Blunt, Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman, North Dakota Gov. John Hoeven, Ohio Gov. Bob Taft, South Dakota Gov. M. Michael Rounds and Wisconsin Gov. Jim Doyle.

Past Chair, 2001

Thomas J. Vilsack

Iowa

The purpose of the Midwestern Governors Association is to foster regional development, attain greater efficiency in state administration, facilitate interstate cooperation and improve intergovernmental relationships, and to provide a medium for the exchange of views and experiences on subjects of general importance to the people of the Midwestern states.