

Kansas Department of

Social and Rehabilitation Services

Gary Daniels, Acting Secretary

Senate Judiciary Committee

January 19, 2005

**Support of Senate Bill 27
An Act Concerning Controlled Substances**

Division of Health Care Policy

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An Act Concerning Controlled Substances**

I am Gary Daniels, Acting Secretary of the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services. I want to express the agency's support for Senate Bill 27, which seeks to place mandatory controls on psuedoephedrine products.

Background

Kansas continues to place near the top of the list nationally for methamphetamine production as is evident by the number of methamphetamine labs seized each year. Many of the proponents of the bill will share those statistics with the committee; the consequences of the amount of methamphetamine produced in the state places children and families at risk.

SRS received a federal grant two years ago from the Center of Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), a division of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, which is part of the Department of Health and Human Services. This grant established the Kansas Methamphetamine Prevention Project (KMPP), which formed a strong partnership between state and private partners. The partners include: SRS, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Kansas State Research and Extension, Kansas Bureau of Investigation as well as the Kansas Grain and Feed Association, High Intensity Drug Trafficking Administration, treatment providers, Kansas National Guard, Kansas Family Partnership, Kansas Agricultural Retailers Association and Kansas Farm Bureau. This project then offered mini-grants to communities, which strengthened local partnerships between local law enforcement, social service agencies, agricultural retailers, research and extension, Regional Prevention Centers and others interested in curtailing the production of methamphetamine. The project offered several low cost initiatives that communities could adopt to address methamphetamine production. One of the initiatives under the project involved working with pharmacies, grocery stores, discount stores and convenience stores to voluntarily place psuedoephedrine products behind the counter to avoid theft and purchases of large quantities of this product, which is vital to the production of methamphetamine.

The funding for this project lasted only one year, but the partnership remains in tact. The agencies involved all remain committed to addressing the issues of production of this dangerous substance.

Social Service Issues

SRS remains committed to this partnership and supports this bill primarily because of the far reaching social consequences involved in the production and use of this drug. SRS sees the consequences of this issue in terms of:

- Child abuse and neglect
- Addiction
- Domestic violence
- Crime
- Poverty
- Health care costs because of injury and respiratory problems

The bill would limit large purchases of these products, as well as require showing identification to make purchases. SRS believes this would help thwart the production problem, since it would limit large quantities of pseudoephedrine which is required to make methamphetamine. I know some of the proponents of this bill are concerned with the interference of the common citizens' ability to obtain these products. However, the bill would not limit access to quantities that are reasonable in fighting common illnesses, such as colds, allergies and sinus problems. However, when faced with the dangers of meth labs, which involve not only the social issues discussed earlier, but also include contamination to water and soil, explosions, injuries and crime, they seem to outweigh the inconvenience caused by this legislation.

Conclusion

I remain concerned about the problem of methamphetamine labs and the costs associated with clean up, treatment for addiction, out of home placements, health care and other issues arising from this problem. The agency will remain engaged in its partnerships to address methamphetamine both at a state level from policy development and at the local level through education, support and technical assistance. Because this type of legislation has proven effective in other states, SRS supports the bill.

Thank you for your time. I will stand for any questions.