



Office of the Attorney General  
Washington, D. C. 20530

August 26, 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS

FROM: Alberto R. Gonzales  
Attorney General

SUBJECT: Methamphetamine

Last week, I appeared in Nashville, Tennessee, with Director John Walters of the Office of National Drug Control Policy and Secretary Michael Leavitt of the Department of Health and Human Services, to discuss the steps that the federal government was taking to combat the abuse of methamphetamine throughout our nation.

At that event, I reiterated my position that the prosecution and incarceration of methamphetamine cooks and distributors is a high priority for the Department of Justice. Given the scope of the methamphetamine problem, it is clear that all levels of the criminal justice system – federal, state, and local – have a role to play in combating this pernicious drug.

I am reaching out to each and every one of you in the field – you, who are on the front lines of law enforcement – to stress the sincerity of my commitment. While our record of methamphetamine prosecution to date is admirable, we can do more.

I ask each of you to examine your district's intake criteria for methamphetamine cases to determine whether those criteria adequately reflect the scope of the methamphetamine problem in your region. I ask that in applying your intake criteria, you take into account the particular societal danger posed by recidivist manufacturers and distributors of methamphetamine. I ask that you use the most sophisticated investigatory tools at your disposal to ensure that our prosecutions target not only the street-level retailers and wholesalers of this drug, but also those who remain in the background – the organizational leaders and financial backers – who reap vast fortunes from the equally vast miseries of those addicted to methamphetamine.

Thank you for your contribution to this Department-wide effort. I take great comfort and satisfaction in knowing that people with your ingenuity and commitment are working to lead all of our partners in this important endeavor.