

**Wally
Herger**
Congressman

2nd District - California



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CONTACT: DARIN THACKER
(202) 225-3076

Herger Hails Measures to Combat Meth Epidemic

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) - Congressman Herger today stressed the importance of actions taken to assist in the fight against the use and distribution of methamphetamine (meth), including new provisions signed into law by President Bush and a House vote supporting reauthorization of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). Herger made the following comments regarding the meth epidemic and these legislative efforts to combat it:

"Confronting the meth epidemic is of paramount importance, and I believe today's actions represent significant steps toward reducing this drug's devastating grip on many of our citizens and communities," stated Herger.

"Meth manufacturing in Northern California is a very serious problem that threatens our families and communities," Herger continued. "Its production and use have exploded in recent years, and it is now the leading drug problem for local law enforcement throughout our nation. I'm very pleased that President Bush has signed into law important provisions that will help local, state, and federal law enforcement confront this drug crisis by stiffening the penalties for meth producers and restricting the sale of precursor drugs."

Specifically, President Bush today signed into law H.R. 3199, the USA PATRIOT and Terrorism Prevention Reauthorization Act, which includes provisions to:

1. Restrict the sale of precursor drugs (common, over-the-counter medicines used in the production of meth)
2. Require exporters and importers to report on their traffic of precursor drugs to prevent diversion of these drugs to meth production
3. Toughen federal penalties for meth traffickers and smugglers as well as those who produce or deal meth in the presence of children

Herger also supported H.R. 2829, the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 2005, which the House passed by a vote of 399 to 5. The measure is now before the Senate for consideration.

Herger concluded, "I also support the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act, which would require this office to spend at least \$15 million to fight meth abuse. It would also reauthorize the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program (HIDTA), which plays an important role in Northern California and our nation in fighting the war on drugs."

For more information, log on to <http://www.house.gov/herger> on the Internet!