

Chair Prusak and Members of the House Committee on Health Care:

My name Les Stiles and I am the former Sheriff of Deschutes County, now retired.

I urge your support for House Bill 2648. It is a commonsense bill that will continue to track and control the sale of products with pseudoephedrine (PSE) while make important allergy and cold relief products available to Oregonians from behind the pharmacy counter.

The bottom line is that our prior legislation was passed while I was Sheriff of Deschutes County. It DID solve one problem—the reduction in what LE called the “mom and pop” kitchen labs--meth labs capable of producing meth—but in quantities too small for any significant distribution.

The problem of meth remained and that is because the vast majority of Oregon meth came from what we called “Super-Labs” that produced massive quantities of meth in 72 hours or less and allowed for distributors to move large amounts of product. These labs were under control of Mexican families (seven of them) located in Guadalajara, Mexico and most of the labs cooked in California.

Meth remains a problem but the sale of small packets of Sudafed is NOT the problem. It appears there are enough controls in the proposed legislation to deal with any concerns related to the selling of Sudafed—which has a positive medical value for many people.

Please deal with the problem in a “common sense” manner—I can assure you the problem with meth will not go away because you continue to limit small personal purchase of PSE products in our State.

I urge you to support HB 2648.

With respect and Best Regards,

Les Stiles  
Deschutes County Sheriff (Ret.)