

Representative Deborah Boone (HD-32)

For Immediate Release

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Boone praises bipartisan action on meth legislation

HB 2485 requires prescriptions for cold remedies that contain pseudoephedrine

SALEM—Representative Deborah Boone (D-North Coast) praised House members of both parties today for Wednesday’s passage of a bill that requires a doctor’s prescription for cold remedies that contain pseudoephedrine, an ingredient needed to make meth, but warned that more must be done.

“Oregon now has America’s toughest restrictions on the availability of pseudoephedrine,” Boone said after the House passed HB 2485 with heavy bipartisan support. “This is the kind of strong action that Oregonians have demanded. I applaud not only the bipartisan effort that produced this bill, but also the countless Oregon citizens who are willing to endure a minor inconvenience in order to carry on the war against methamphetamine.”

Despite Wednesday’s action by the House, Boone said the state must become more aggressive in improving access to treatment for meth addiction. “Oregon has the highest rate of methamphetamine-related treatment admissions of all states,” Boone pointed out. “Yet Oregon ranks 45th in access to treatment, and 49th in access to treatment for young people between the ages of 18 and 25. That’s simply unacceptable.”

The North Coast Democrat has supported legislative action to strengthen the state’s enforcement effort against meth by bolstering local investigations and prosecutions with state help, especially in rural communities. She has also fought for passage of a bill that toughens penalties for meth crimes that involve children.

“Of the 7,000 children currently in the foster care, more than 70 percent of them are there because of methamphetamines,” Boone said. “The people of my district have suffered the miseries caused by methamphetamine addiction and trafficking, and they’re ready to join the war on these vicious crimes. Parents see the effects of meth in their neighborhoods, as do teachers, law enforcement people, and the hundreds of crime victims. When more nine-tenths of all property crime involves meth, we know that tough measures are necessary.”

Boone said she will continue to press the legislature to strengthen the war against meth “on all fronts.”

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