



OREGON HOUSE REPUBLICANS

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REP. WHISNANT LEADS EFFORTS TO KEEP METH DEALERS BEHIND BARS

Sunriver Legislator Works to Increase Bail Amounts for Dealers

SALEM— House Republican Whip Gene Whisnant (R-Sunriver) today led passage of SB 1095, the bill to increase the bail amount for meth dealers from \$50,000 to \$500,000. Rep. Whisnant co-sponsored the bill because meth dealers were posting bond for as little as \$500.

“There should be no ‘get-out-of-jail discount’ for drug dealers who are pushing methamphetamine in our communities,” said Rep. Whisnant, the Vice-Chair of the House Judiciary Committee. “SB 1095 sends the strong message that dealing methamphetamine in Oregon will be a very expensive occupation.”

SB 1095 requires a court to set bail at a minimum of \$500,000 for a person awaiting trial for methamphetamine crimes, if the judge has reason to believe the defendant will fail to appear in court, commit a new crime, or pose a threat to the public. The legislation applies to the most serious meth crimes, such as manufacturing the drug and dealing it to children.

“This legislation targets the most serious offenders, or those meth dealers who can typically afford to post bond under current law,” Rep. Whisnant said. “SB 1095 is just one part of a comprehensive effort to address the methamphetamine problem in our state.”

SB 1095, chief sponsored by Sen. Doug Whitsett (R-Klamath Falls), now moves to the Governor’s desk for his signature. It’s one part of the **Republican Safe Streets Agenda**, announced by Senate Republicans, which includes adding 39 Troopers for 24/7 State Police coverage.

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