



REPRESENTATIVE GENE WHISNANT, DISTRICT 53

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REP WHISNANT LEADS EFFORT TO KEEP METH DEALERS BEHIND BARS

Sunriver Legislator calls for increase bail amounts for meth dealers

Salem – House Republican Whip Gene Whisnant (R-Sunriver) on the last day of the February 2008 Special Session carried SB 1095 on the House Floor. The bill increasing the bail amount for meth dealers from \$50,000 to \$500,000 passed unanimously. Rep. Whisnant co-sponsored the bill which prevents meth dealers posting bond for as little as \$500.

“There should be no ‘get-out-of-jail’ discounts 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 is intended to keep 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 the current law,” Rep. Whisnant commented. “SB 1095 is another part of our comprehensive effort to address the meth problem in our state.”

The chief sponsor of SB 1095 is Senator Doug Whitsett (R –Klamath Falls). The bill which now moves to the Governor’s desk for this signature is part of the “Republican Safe Streets Agenda” announced by Senate Republicans.

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