



**State of Connecticut**  
**DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

**Testimony of the Division of Criminal Justice**

*In Support of:*

**H.B. No. 5037 – An Act Concerning Methamphetamines**

*Joint Committee on Public Health – February 29, 2008*

The Division of Criminal Justice respectfully recommends the Committee's Joint Favorable Report for H.B. No. 5037, An Act Concerning Methamphetamines. We commend Governor Rell for proposing this comprehensive legislation to deal with the threat posed to the public health and safety by the illegal sale and manufacture of methamphetamines, an illegal drug commonly known as crystal meth.

Meth is an illegal narcotic that can be easily manufactured using recipes found on the Internet from raw materials readily available from the local pharmacy or convenience store and hardware store. It is manufactured in makeshift labs that can fit into the trunk of a car. The ease of production and relatively low cost of raw materials makes it an illegal product for an industry that is driven by one motive – greed. The manufacturing process itself raises other serious concerns in that it produces toxic byproducts that pose serious environmental concerns. The process itself is highly volatile. Explosion and fire are common with illegal meth labs. The drug also poses a serious threat to children as meth lab seizures in other states have routinely occurred at sites where children live or play.

In recent years, the United States has experienced a growing problem with the sale and manufacture of meth. We in Connecticut have been somewhat fortunate in that we have not experienced the proliferation of this drug to the extent that has occurred in other states where meth use is described in epidemic proportions. We cannot forget, however, that the reason for the proliferation of meth sale and manufacture is the same in every state – illegal profit and greed. If the illegal drug industry can find a market in Connecticut, the problem will worsen here.

H.B. No. 5037 proposes a comprehensive approach to dealing with the problems associated with the sale and manufacture of meth, as well as the environmental problems unique to the production of this drug. The bill establishes what the Division believes are appropriate penalties for the sale and/or manufacture of methamphetamine. It also establishes an account to provide funding for the cleanup of the environmental nightmares that can result from meth production. Finally, the bill places reasonable controls on the sale of over-the-counter medicines that contain ephedrine, pseudoephedrine or other substances that are the raw ingredients of illegal meth.

In conclusion, the Division of Criminal Justice respectfully recommends the Committee's Joint Favorable Report for H.B. No. 5037, An Act Concerning Methamphetamines. We thank the Committee for this opportunity to present our recommendations and testimony and would be happy to provide any further information or answer any questions the Committee might have.