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March 28, 2005

LEGISLATIVE ALERT – METHAMPHETAMINE LEGISLATION

To: All WGA Members
From: Brandon Scholz – President, Wisconsin Grocers Association

This urgent alert advises you that two legislative bills are making rapid headway in the State Capitol that will prohibit you from selling certain cold products like Sudafed. The bills will require that only pharmacies and pharmacists will be allowed to sell these products behind the pharmacy counter.

ACTION REQUIRED

Using the points below, please fax us a letter, on your company letterhead within the next 48 hours stating your opposition to this legislation. If we do not hear back from you, we will have to assume that you are okay with not being able to sell these products in your store.

BACKGROUND

Methamphetamine is the most addictive drug in America today. 80% of meth (also known as crystal meth, crank, etc) is produced in Superlabs in Mexico and Canada. The rest of this horrible drug is produced in garages, storage lockers, in the backs of vans, in houses, apartments, basements, etc by low-life scumbags who use the drug and sell it to other addicts.

Methamphetamine is produced by combining things like battery acid, lye, Drano, fertilizer and “Pseudoephedrine,” the principal ‘single active ingredient found in cold products like Sudafed. The “cooking process” distills out the Pseudoephedrine and is used to produce the drug.

These labs and the drug that is produced have an immediate toxic, addictive and terminal effect on people. It is a severe problem that has strained law enforcement beyond their ability to keep it under control and to bust the labs before they get up and running and making enough of the drug to sell in their communities.

Those involved in their communities who are trying to stop the influx of these labs and to rid their community of this drug, believe that the most effective way is to severely limit the sale of the products that contain pseudoephedrine. As a result, grocery store and retail stores are the targets of this legislation.

So far, more than 20 states have passed legislation which classifies these over-the-counter cold medicines as Schedule V drugs which means that only pharmacists can sell and dispense these products from behind their pharmacy counters.

Efforts to move these products behind the grocers’ customer service counter have not been successful in virtually every state where this has come up including neighboring states like Iowa and Minnesota.

The Wisconsin Grocers Association has testified and offered an “industry solution” to the problem by proposing that the products be located behind the customer service counter, limiting the sale to no more than 2-3 packages per sale, refusing to sell to minors and maintaining a log of the transactions. However, the proponents of the legislation do not support our position and maintain their claim that the only solution to severely reducing the availability of Pseudoephedrine is to put it in the pharmacy.

When writing your letter, please use the following points:

- Grocers can be a part of the solution to the meth crises by controlling the sale of certain cold remedy products from behind the customer service counter.
- 99.99% of our customers use this product legitimately. By controlling the sale at the customer service counter we can serve our customers and help solve the meth crises.
- Many grocers are already limiting the sale of these products at the register without a government mandate.
- Grocers can execute a reasonable and effective solution to the problem without having a significant lose of sales, a negative impact to our business, employees and customers.
- The grocery industry supports establishing a Task Force to develop a comprehensive proposal to deal with the meth crises, not just a limited effort to prohibit grocers from selling these products.
- Please amend the legislation to allow grocers and others to maintain these products in a safe and secure area and to sell them under the conditions we have proposed.

It is vitally important that you fax these points on your letterhead today to (608) 244-9030. Without your urgent and significant assistance, it is very, very likely that you will be prohibited from selling these products.

Single Active Ingredient Pseudoephedrine Products

Contact Non-Drowsy Cold	3-45800-23810
Contact Non-Drowsy Cold	3-45800-23820
Dimetapp 12 Hour Extentabs	3-00312-27310
Dimetapp 12 Hour Extentabs	3-00312-27320
Drixoral Non-Drowsy Decon	0-41100-82013
Primatene Tablets	3-05732-95210
Sudafed Tablets	3-00810-86524
Sudafed Tablets	3-00810-86548
Sudafed 12-Hour Caplets	3-00810-67013
Sudafed 12 Hour Caplets	3-00810-67020
Sudafed 24 Hour Tablets	3-00819-60026
Sudafed 24 Hour Tablets	3-00819-60027

If you have questions, please contact Brandon Scholz or Michelle Kussow toll-free at (888) 342-5942 or (608) 244-7150.