

Terry E. Branstad

Governor

Kim Reynolds

Lt. Governor



Department of Public Safety

Roxann M. Ryan

Commissioner

To: Chairman Grassley and the Senate Judiciary Committee

From: Paul Feddersen: Assistant Director of the Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement

Re: Answer to questions submitted by the Senate Judiciary Committee

Date: November 2, 2015

Dear Chairman Grassley and Committee members,

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for holding the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing in Iowa and taking the time to hear how methamphetamine, both imported from outside and manufactured in the state, has impacted Iowa.

- You have submitted the question, asking what strategies are law enforcement using to combat the smaller “one-pot” laboratories?

When the “one-pot” labs emerged in Iowa, an education effort that included a bulletin to raise awareness of the ingredients used and indicators associated with the “one-pot” process were shared with the public. The bulletin encourages the public to report suspicious activity to law enforcement.

Law enforcement also utilizes the state established tracking system that monitors the purchase of pseudoephedrine to combat labs. This tracking system prevents methamphetamine manufacturers from going to various pharmacies and purchasing the pseudoephedrine over the 30 day allowance. This system can be monitored to determine if there are continued or large purchases by individuals, including identifying possible associates involved in purchasing. Law enforcement can do follow up investigations to determine if these individuals are producing methamphetamine.

Another strategy that has helped law enforcement in the last year is the expansion of the state precursor law to include four substances used in the “one-pot” manufacturing process. It is now a felony to possess those items with the intent to manufacture methamphetamine.

- You also submitted the question if there are additional tools our office needs to help restrict “one-pot” laboratories in Iowa?

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The Byrne-Jag funded anti-drug task forces are one of the main tools in the battle against methamphetamine and I would ask for the continued support for this funding. Earlier this month at the hearing I spoke of the Drug Enforcement Administration's Authorized Central Storage or "Container" Program that we now have implemented in Iowa. This program has also been an important tool for law enforcement, which in turn saves resources that enables law enforcement to continue to investigate methamphetamine labs and methamphetamine traffickers. Continued funding for this program and support from our federal partners is vital in the battle against methamphetamine.

Please let me know if you have any follow up questions or need any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Feddersen".

Paul Feddersen - Assistant Director

Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement