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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, February 9, 2006  
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**CAREY BILL TO DETER METH USE, PRODUCTION BECOMES LAW**

CHILLICOTHE – Joined by a pharmacist and law enforcement officials from around the state, Ohio Governor Bob Taft today signed into law Senate Bill 53, legislation sponsored by Senator John Carey (R-Wellston) that will deter the use and production of methamphetamine, or “meth,” in Ohio by regulating the sale of drugs that contain pseudoephedrine as the main active ingredient.

“For too long, meth cookers have relied on Ohio’s minimal restrictions on the sale of pseudoephedrine, a key ingredient in meth manufacturing, to produce this extremely dangerous and illegal substance,” Carey said. “With more stringent laws in place, meth makers won’t have as easy access to the component they need and Ohio’s families and children will have stronger protections against this highly toxic drug.”

Under SB 53, all medicines that contain pseudoephedrine as the sole active ingredient – except products sold in liquid, liquid capsule or gel capsule form – must be placed behind a store counter and accessible only by a store employee. The bill also requires consumers to show photo identification to purchase a pseudoephedrine product to prove they are over the age of 18.

To ensure meth makers cannot gain access to exorbitant amounts of the ingredient they need, SB 53 limits consumer to buying nine grams of pseudoephedrine at a time without a doctor’s prescription and in a 30-day period. To monitor the sale of the drug, retailers are required to maintain a log book.

“By regulating the sale of this drug while also setting a reasonable nine-gram limit, meth cookers will have a harder time acquiring the packs they need and consumers who use the drug responsibly and for its sole purpose – to alleviate cold symptoms – will still have sufficient access to the medication,” Carey continued.

SB 53 will take effect in 90 days.

## Senate Bill 53 Bullet Points

- All medicine containing pseudoephedrine, as the sole active ingredient is placed behind a store counter, accessible only by a store employee and limiting consumers to buying nine grams of pseudoephedrine at a time without a doctor's prescription
  - excluding products in liquid, liquid capsule or gel capsule form.
- No person may acquire more than nine grams of a pseudoephedrine product within a period of 30 consecutive days
- Requires consumers to display photo identification to purchase a pseudoephedrine product to prove they are over the age of 18
- Specifies that unlawful purchase of a pseudoephedrine product and unlawfully selling a pseudoephedrine product are misdemeanors of the first degree.
- A logbook requirement to more closely monitor the sale of the drug, retailers must retain the pseudoephedrine purchase logbook for one year.
- Specifies that the pseudoephedrine purchase logbook maintained by retailers may be in a tangible format, an electronic format, or both.
- Requires retailers, distributors, pharmacies, prescribers, or wholesalers that provide any pseudoephedrine product to report the theft or loss of more than nine grams of any pseudoephedrine product to notify the state board of pharmacy and law enforcement. Within thirty days of the theft or loss, a written report that identifies the product and the amount of the product stolen or lost must be sent to the state board of pharmacy.
- Requires the law enforcement annual report to BCI&I to include reporting of arrests related to illegal methamphetamine manufacturing laboratories, dump sites, and chemical caches; and the total number of dump sites and chemical caches discovered that year.
- Allows a seller to use a transaction scan device to check the validity of a driver's license or I.D. card as a condition of selling a pseudoephedrine product. If the information deciphered by the transaction scan device is not valid, the seller may not sell the product.
- Specifies that, if a law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe that particular premises are used for the illegal manufacture of methamphetamine, for the purpose of conducting a search of the premises without a warrant, the risk of explosion or fire from the illegal manufacture of methamphetamine causing injury to the public constitutes exigent circumstances and reasonable grounds to believe that there is an immediate need to protect the lives, or property, of the officer and other individuals in the vicinity of the illegal manufacture.