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Supervisor Rubio Joins the Fight to Combat Meth Locally

Kern County Supervisor Michael Rubio is pleased to announce that the Kern County Board of Supervisors today approved a referral to explore the feasibility of restricting the sale of common cold medications containing pseudoephedrine – a key ingredient in the illegal production of methamphetamine. The proposed ordinance would require that any store in the unincorporated areas of the County keep medications containing pseudoephedrine in a place that is locked and secure and accessible only to employees. Furthermore, individuals purchasing cold medication would be required to provide identification to the store clerk.

In Fresno County, where officials are already working on implementing such an ordinance, a store owner who fails to comply with the proposed ordinance can be fined up to \$250. State and national legislators, such as Senator Dianne Feinstein, are also working to combat this critical problem, but Kern County needs to stem this tide as quickly and as decisively as possible.

If the proposed ordinance is ultimately approved, Kern County would ask the 11 incorporated cities within the County to enact the same restrictions in order for the County's efforts to be truly effective.

“This ordinance will make it very difficult for people to purchase or acquire large quantities of pseudoephedrine. I don't see any conceivable reason why a resident of this County would ever need to purchase more than 300 pills of cold medication containing this very potent ingredient in a given month?” Supervisor Rubio noted. “Many lives are being lost and even more families are being destroyed because of this horrible drug. Not to mention, the meth problem in Kern County is severely straining our already overburdened local law enforcement and public health authorities.”

Though this understandably presents a minor inconvenience to consumers, we can now begin to directly confront one of the most dangerous drugs that is ravaging the lives of families throughout Kern County and particularly the Fifth District.