

**Wally
Herger**
Congressman

2nd District - California



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DECEMBER 14, 2005

CONTACT: DARIN THACKER
(202) 225-3076

Herger Applauds House Passage of Legislation Aimed at Combating Meth

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) - Congressman Wally Herger (CA-02) supported House passage of H.R. 798, the "Methamphetamine Remediation Research Act," and H.R. 3199, the "USA Patriot and Terrorism Prevention Reauthorization Act," which address the growing meth epidemic throughout the United States. Herger made the following statement after passage of these bills:

"Meth manufacturing in Northern California is a very serious problem that threatens our families and communities," Herger stated. "Its production and use have exploded in recent years, and it is now a leading drug problem for local law enforcement throughout our nation. I'm pleased that Congress has taken these important additional steps to address this profound challenge."

H.R. 3199 incorporates S. 103, the "Combat Meth Act," which would increase criminal penalties for meth manufacturers and traffickers, and would direct the Secretary of State to work with Mexican law enforcement to help prevent meth trafficking. This measure would also limit access to certain chemicals frequently used to manufacture meth. Upon Senate approval, President Bush has indicated that he will sign H.R. 3199 into law.

H.R. 798 would require the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop voluntary cleanup guidelines to help states identify chemicals used in meth production, the extent to which they are adverse to the environment and public health, and the most effective methods of restoring former meth labs. In doing so, the legislation seeks to help ensure that former labs no longer pose a threat to public health and the environment.

Herger continued, "By stiffening the penalties for meth producers, cracking down on meth smuggling, limiting the accessibility of meth-related products, and helping to ensure that shutdown meth labs do not pose a threat to our public health, these measures will help counter the meth epidemic.

"As our nation confronts this problem, I will continue to strongly support efforts aimed at combating meth production and use," concluded Herger.

For more information, log on to <http://www.house.gov/herger> on the Internet!