

## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### JEFFERSON COUNTY ORDINANCE BURDENS PATIENTS AND PRACTITIONERS

JEFFERSON CITY, MO – Ron Fitzwater, CEO of the Missouri Pharmacy Association, issued the following statement today on yesterday's vote by Jefferson County officials to require prescriptions for pseudoephedrine (PSE) products:

"Missouri pharmacists have been extremely active in working with the Legislature and law enforcement to address the methamphetamine problem in Missouri. We know that it is a serious problem in our state. But, the Missouri Pharmacy Association is opposed to any ordinance or legislation that hinders the ability of patients to purchase legal products containing pseudoephedrine (PSE) by forcing them to have a prescription to acquire the product.

The result of these type of regulations add an unnecessary burden on patients, especially now as we enter the depths of the cold and influenza season. Also, in a time where there is considerable discussion regarding health care costs, these regulations will further increase health care costs by forcing patients to go to their physician, or other licensed prescriber, to get a prescription to purchase these legal products. That results in higher costs to the patient.

"The most important step that Missouri can take right now to curb methamphetamine production in our state is to fund and implement the PSE Tracking System which was approved by the Missouri Legislature during the 2008 session. This tracking system needs to be given a chance to work before we take this more drastic measure.

"Patients deserve the right to purchase legal medications. Law enforcement deserves the right to a system that would help to eliminate the illegal purchase of these products. We should all be working cooperatively to implement the electronic tracking system that will assist in those efforts."

Established in 1879, the Missouri Pharmacy Association is the professional society representing Missouri pharmacists, united to improve public health and patient care, enhance professional development and advocate for the interest of the profession.

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