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A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHILD ADVOCATES

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Drug Classification Change Good Decision for Wisconsin Kids

Children's Advocacy Groups Supports SB 78 at Public Hearing

Madison – The Wisconsin Council on Children and Families today testified in support of Senate Bill 78, which changes the drug classification of pseudoephedrine hydrochloride a key ingredient in methamphetamine or “meth” and regulates the drugs sale over the counter.

“The production of methamphetamine is a growing problem for children in Wisconsin, effecting children in homes where the drug is manufactured and children in communities where meth has become an increasingly popular and available drug,” Charity Eleson, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families said. “Controlling the sales of key ingredients to meth as well as tracking the sales of pseudoephedrine purchases is a significant step in prevention of homemade methamphetamine labs.”

Senate Bill 78 regulates the sale and makes requirements of record keeping of purchases and increases penalties for sale of meth to minors.

“We are thankful for the efforts of Representative Rhoades and Senator Harsdorf, coauthors of this bipartisan effort to curb meth manufacturing in Wisconsin,” Eleson said.

According to the FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin from February 2004, children are found to be present in approximately one-third of all meth labs seized by authorities.

“Children who live in homes where methamphetamine is produced live in potentially unsafe environments where physical, developmental, emotional and psychosocial damages are a reality every day,” Eleson said. “These risks and the risks to young adults in communities where meth is increasingly available to them make meth a significant safety concern to children in Wisconsin, especially rural communities.”

Staff from the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families travel statewide educating young adults of the dangers of drugs, like methamphetamine, on their brain development. Collaborative efforts in public education of adults and minors, law enforcement, human services, and policy-making arenas will make our communities safer for our kids.