

"REP. HARE VOTES TO COMBAT METH IN ILLINOIS"

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 7 -- Rep. Phil Hare, D-Ill. (17th CD), has issued the following news release:

Rep. Phil Hare (D-IL) today voted for H.R. 365, a bill that requires the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to assist state and local authorities in cleaning up former "meth-making" lab sites. He is an original co-sponsor.

"Methamphetamine use is crippling rural communities and ruining the lives of many young people across the country," Hare said. "It is critical that we give law enforcement the resources to find, shut down, and clean up old meth labs."

Meth labs are often found in residential settings, houses, apartments or hotel rooms. The chemicals used in methamphetamine production are known health and environmental hazards and dangerous chemicals and fumes are left behind, even after meth labs are shut down.

"Not only are meth users and producers harming themselves, but they are endangering everyone that comes into contact with these labs, including our first responders," Hare said. "That is why the cleanup component of this bill is so critical."

H.R. 365 requires the EPA Administrator to establish a research program to support development of voluntary clean-up guidelines to determine when a former meth lab is safe for human habitation. It also directs the National Institute of Standards and Technology to develop technologies to safely detect meth labs.

"Meth is a destructive drug that is disproportionately harming our small and rural communities," Hare said. "Today, the House smartly embraced a comprehensive strategy to combat this known health and environmental hazard."