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## Meth Speech

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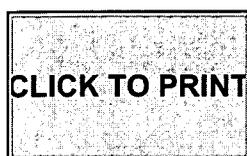
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## **Meth Speech**

Hello everyone. I'm sorry I can't be with you today. Senate business has kept me in Washington. I'm currently working with members of the Senate Appropriations Committee to secure for funding for Montana projects.

I want to say a big thank you to Sandy Kolar (Ko-Lahr). Sandy is a leader in the fight against drugs in the Yellowstone County area and across the state. Thank you for all of your hard work. You're aces!

Your meeting today is a very important one. Drugs – specifically meth – is a big problem in Montana. We all know that meth is easy to make. It's cheap. And it's highly addictive. Folks can log onto the Internet to get the recipe. Buy the ingredients at the local hard ware store. And cook meth in their homes.

I've been a partner in this fight for a long time. Fighting meth has become a very personal issue for me. Part of our efforts are education. That's why I've held so many town hall meetings and classroom discussions on meth across the state. That's why I've met with business owners on steps they can take to be aware of people buying their products to make meth. That's why I called HUD and made them clean up Becky's basement. And that's why I've teamed up with Attorney General Mike McGrath to get the word out.

But, as with anything, fighting meth takes money. Not only on the enforcement side, but the prevention and cleanup side too.

As you all will remember, I got 5 counties in Montana into the Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, also known as HIDTA. This wasn't easy. Believe me. Stiff competition from other states. The fact that Montana is less-populated than other areas. It was an uphill battle. But, working with all of you, we kept pushing. Kept calling. Kept meeting personally with the Drug Czar. And last year, we finally got the designation. That designation came with about \$500,000 for meth fighting in 2003. We were disappointed it wasn't more. That's why this year I'm fighting to get that number up to about a \$1 million. These are HIDTA dollars, but I'm also pushing to secure Byrne grants. Hot Spot grants. And other federal assistance to help curb this problem.

We've had some success in curbing Montana's meth problem, but clearly there's more to do.

This year, I've worked with the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation and U.S. Department of Treasury to secure \$1 million to fight meth use in Montana. I'm committed to doing all I can to secure these much-needed funds for Montana.

With your help, by working together, we can win this fight against methamphetamine use. I want to thank you. All of you for what you're doing. It is so important. And I want you to know I'm here to help.

The next time you're in Washington, please stop by my office. My staff and I are here to help you with whatever you need. That's our job!

Good luck with your meeting. Get some good work done.

All the best.