



News from Congressman Mike Simpson



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Simpson Secures Meth Project, Hospital, I-84 Funds

Idaho Congressman secures \$1 million for Idaho Meth Project in House Bill

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Idaho Congressman Mike Simpson, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, has secured an additional \$1 million for the Idaho Meth Project. Simpson secured the funding as part of a final year-end bill funding several federal departments and agencies.

“My wife, Kathy, and I have been so impressed by the Idaho Meth Project and the positive results it is achieving across the state,” said Simpson. “The Governor, First Lady, and their staff deserve a tremendous amount of credit for establishing this program in Idaho and making it a top priority. The sad reality is that meth continues to rob too many Idahoans of their money, their futures, and their lives. I am hoping this infusion of federal funding will help the Idaho Meth Project impact the lives of more Idahoans in a positive way and turn them away from the life-sapping scourge of methamphetamine.”

“The Governor and I launched the Idaho Meth Project in the belief that aggressively educating the next generation of Idahoans about the dangers of methamphetamine abuse can significantly change how this dangerous and addictive drug is perceived,” said Idaho First Lady Lori Otter. “In two short years we have seen undeniable evidence that the campaign is working and positively impacting the lives of many of our citizens. Young people along with hundreds of volunteers are reaching out to friends and family members, discouraging them from using this drug while spreading the ‘Not Even Once’ message to every corner of our state. We are extremely grateful that Congressman Simpson has secured critical funding that will ensure this important work continues.”

The goal of the Idaho Meth Project is to significantly reduce the prevalence of first-time methamphetamine use in Idaho. To achieve this goal, the Project has established a program focusing on three areas: 1) Public Service Messaging; 2) Public Policy; and 3) Community Action.

The bill also contains \$400,000 for the I-84 expansion project. This project will add a third east and westbound lane to I-84 between Broadway Avenue and Gowen Road. The expansion will help alleviate congestion and safety issues caused by the continued rapid growth in the Treasure Valley.

In addition, the bill contains \$350,000 for Children’s Health Services Expansion; St. Luke’s Regional Medical Center, Ltd. The Children’s Health Services Expansion project provides a much needed increase in capacity for Pediatric Medical/Surgical, Pediatric Intensive Care, Neonatal Intensive Care, Pediatric Oncology, and Pediatric Surgical Suites and support areas. This expansion will help meet needs for its extensive service area that lies between Salt Lake City, Utah, and Portland, Oregon, both more than 350 miles from Boise.

Other Idaho-based projects receiving funding in the bill include:

- \$500,000 for Idaho State Police participation in the Criminal Information Sharing Alliance Network;
- \$500,000 for the National Consortium of Offender Management Systems (NCOMS) Sharing Software for the Idaho Department of Corrections.

The legislation is expected to be passed by the House and Senate over the next two weeks and then be sent to the President for his signature.

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