



Target: Meth

The second in a series focusing on local meth use

House bill cooked up to ice pushers



Evan Seal surreyleader.com

A meth user puts his syringe on ice before shooting up in order to cool the substance. The drug was boiled down from about a cup of primarily methadone, a prescription drug used to curb the cravings of heroine addicts.

Republican and author of bill Vicki Berger said in a statement regarding her proposed legislation.

Others however, could be happier about the new legislation, namely those who would

be most affected by it.

"It's a double-sided sword, there. I know where it could help--in situations of people right now--but if they're going back to like, when I did it, in '88, I never got busted for any

meth crimes after that," says David, a 46-year-old Clackamas student and former meth user and producer, who is worried about how this new legislation will affect his life.

"I've been clean and sober

and trying to make something out of my life going to college here ... I don't know if you'd say 'beaten it,' I don't have any desire to do it anymore. It's a part of my life that's in the past. I like to use my knowledge of it and my experiences to help somebody else to maybe get over it," David said.

"We should protect the public, but somebody that made a mistake when they were young and overcame it, I don't think should be branded," he added. "Doing your time is doing your time, paying your time is paying your time."

David started using in 1982, when he began an alcoholic binge after being left by his wife and kids, and he began using meth to enable him to drink more and not black out, which had dramatic effects on his life.

"The old saying is, a drunk Please see METH, Page 2

Maras Editor

Editor's Note: Names used in this story have been changed to protect the privacy of the subjects and the reputations of their institutions.

CC student "David" still bears the scars of a life he left behind 3 years ago, although new legislation would require him to be registered to that past.

Bill would require Oregon students to register on a list to the one on which sex offenders must register.

But we're trying to do it to the neighborhoods where someone with meth is living nearby, and put the neighborhood watch to make sure it doesn't happen again," House

College funding brings ASG to Salem

Kulongoski's new plan funds Oregon Opportunity Grant

Maras Editor

The Associated Student Government (ASG) joined students from

across the state Thursday to thank Gov. Ted Kulongoski for funding the Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG). The event was put on by the Oregon Students' Association (OSA), and among those who spoke in support were students from The University of Oregon, Oregon State University, Lane Community College, and Western Oregon University.

The OOG is the state's only need-based financial aid program for students, and has not been fully funded until now. Last year, 70 percent of eligible students received the grant. Kulongoski's new plan will allow for full funding of the grant.

"I want everybody to understand how important this issue is, not just to me, and not just to you, but to Oregon, and to Oregon's future," Kulongoski said, opening his speech. "I believe that education is the great equalizer in society. If you give people the opportunity to have an education, they can contribute to this state and to our future, and be an active partner in

our society. That's how important this is, because this is where opportunity starts ... by investing in education."

Along with President Joe Johnson, ASG met with Senators and Representatives to testify about the importance of community college funding.

"The doors are going to close, and what we need is people to say 'you know what? \$3 million is not going to fund community college,'" Johnson said to Oregon Representative Michael Schaufler.

"Everybody's hurting," said Schaufler. "I won't come here and tell you we're not, because that's a bold-faced lie. We're shooting ourselves in the foot by not investing in community colleges."

Schaufler explained that Measure 5's tax cut was largely responsible for the lack of funding, as it left 40 percent of funds, which previously came from taxpayers, unaccounted for. Later, Oregon Senator Richard Devlin added that the rejection of a 10-cent cigarette tax has cost the state \$22 million to \$25 million, money which could have been funneled to education.

"Be really careful what you back and what you support," Schaufler advises. "In your life, you will be the protectors. That's how we got where we are; [it's] a real mess."

On the steps of the capital building, OSA representatives



all photos by Isaac Creel Clackamas Print

ABOVE: Gov. Ted Kulongoski speaks to worried college students about grant funding. LEFT AND BELOW: The "key to access" is being used to show that the governor has the key to let would-be students access higher education. The students pictured are (clockwise from left) Sara Sumner from Lane CC, Erin Linel from PSU and Courthery Angling from Lane CC.

awarded Kulongoski the "Key to Access," a symbolic representation of the importance of funding community colleges. Among students who showed their support for Kulongoski was OSU sophomore Scott Shermer, who has been touched deeply by the OOG.

"I grew up surrounded by drugs and domestic violence. My parents were separated when I was very young, and my mother raised me until I was old enough to move out," Shermer said. "The closest thing I had to a father for most of my life was the welfare system, and from an early age I intended on seeking some form of higher education. But the older I got the more I realized [that] we weren't going to be able to shoulder the burden on our own."

Shermer is now attending Oregon State University because of the OOG, pursuing a degree in sociology, and "breaking the cycle of violence, drug abuse, and poverty that has gripped [his] family for so many years."

ASG feels that their point was made well and the trip was well worth it.

"We got the message out," says ASG Senator to Legislation and Fundraising Kristin Madden. "We had some unexpected supporters."

"It's not looking as down and gloomy as it could be," said ASG President Teresa Robertson.

President Johnson estimates that the trips effects on the money given to community colleges by Legislators will be worth \$12 million to \$22 million.



KEY TO ACCESS