

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. House of Representatives today passed a bill co-sponsored by U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell that will protect families against the harmful health effects of methamphetamine production.

H.R. 365, the Methamphetamine Remediation Research Act, works to clean up methamphetamine labs and the toxic mess they leave behind. The bill directs the Environmental Protection Agency to establish health-based guidelines on how clean the site should be in order to be considered a safe living environment. Properly cleaning dangerous residue from meth labs is critical to maintaining safe homes for children and families and protecting the environment from pollution by dangerous chemicals.

"We all know how harmful meth labs are to the security of a neighborhood, but health hazards remain a legitimate threat to our children even after a lab has been shut down," said Mitchell. "This legislation is an important step forward to fighting the harmful effects of meth labs."

The legislation authorizes \$1.75 million for the EPA to establish a research program on residues from the production of methamphetamines and to work with state and local officials on meth lab recovery and remediation.

The legislation also:

- Authorizes \$750,000 for the National Institute of Standards and Technology to conduct research on the development of meth detection equipment.
- Directs the EPA to work with the National Academy of Sciences to study the long-term health impact of exposure to meth labs on children and first responders.

Mitchell said that federal, state and local governments have a responsibility to work together to fight meth, and praised the efforts of Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano and Attorney General Terry Goddard to crack down on meth labs.

"We have strong leaders in Arizona working on this issue, and I know that with the new Congress, we can work together on removing harmful meth labs from our neighborhoods," said Mitchell.