



March Against Meth to lobby for the Montana Meth Project

By TIM SEERY • For the Tribune • January 26, 2009

On Feb. 16, Montanans of all ages will join together at the state Capitol in Helena to demonstrate their support for the Montana Meth Project. At the March Against Meth, Montanans will deliver a Declaration of Support with thousands of signatures from across the state to the Legislature asking for modest state funding.

Where we spend our money directly reflects our values. I have faith that our state legislators will reflect the values of those they represent with resounding volume, demonstrating to those foreign to our state that we as a people will never abandon the Montana Meth Project.

This past month has opened up new dialogue about the project and its impact on the state. David Erceg-Hurn, a doctoral student in psychology at the University of Western Australia, produced a limited analysis that questioned the effectiveness of a project that has paid such great dividends.

The Montana Meth Project is an example of what citizens can do to take action at a time when action needs to be taken. In 2005, methamphetamine use in Montana had reached epidemic heights, fraying the infrastructure and strength of our state. Three years ago, Montana ranked fifth in the nation for meth abuse, and today, Montana ranks 39th.

Today, teen meth use is down 45 percent and adult meth use by 72 percent. These statistics are a testament to the success of a project that has rescued the future of Montana — which in 2005, hung in the balance.

The Montana Meth Project has capitalized on the idea that awareness and education are keys to any successful drug prevention campaign. Through direct advertising and community outreach, the Montana Meth Project has set itself apart from all others.

Methamphetamine threatened to claim an entire generation of young Montanans and because of a tidal wave of citizen outcry, it did not.

The Montana Meth Project has delivered a second chance to our state for a safe, healthy and productive future — a future that we all can be proud of. As Montanans, we know firsthand the positive impacts that the Montana Meth Project has made on our state. It is our obligation to stand against any outside voices that negate that fact.

I urge you to join me on Feb. 16 in Helena and join the March Against Meth.

Visit www.montanameth.org for more information and to register for this great event.

Tim Seery is a sophomore at C.M. Russell High and a member of the Tribune's Teen Panel.