

**Media Advisory from  
Congressman  
Bart Gordon**

Tennessee's 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 6, 2004

Contact: Keith Talley  
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**Who:** U.S. Rep. Bart Gordon and other local, state and federal officials  
**What:** Roundtable discussion on state's meth abuse problem  
**When:** Monday, May 10, at 2:30 p.m.  
**Where:** Volunteer State Community College

**Gordon Hosts Meth Abuse Discussion**

GALLATIN – U.S. Rep. Bart Gordon will host a roundtable discussion with local, state and federal officials concerning ways to fight the growing methamphetamine problem in Tennessee on Monday (May 10) at Volunteer State Community College.

The public is invited to attend the event, which begins at 2:30 p.m. in the Rochelle Conference Center of Thigpen Library.

"Tennessee is facing a very real plague with methamphetamine," said Gordon, ranking member of the House Science Committee, which is conducting the roundtable. "The people who use and manufacture meth are often violent and delusional. Long-term use can even lead to brain damage or death."

Gordon has charged the committee, which has jurisdictional oversight over all civilian research and development programs of the federal government, to identify key steps that Congress can take to assist communities in their fight against meth use and production.

"It's my hope that this discussion will help us come up with tools and techniques that may help local social services, health, law enforcement and environmental officials combat this problem," Gordon said.

"Hundreds of Tennessee children had to be placed in foster care last year because their parents were either addicted to meth or making the caustic substance. Authorities expect another 600 children will have to be placed in foster care in the next 12 months because of the problem."

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Scheduled to participate in the discussion are state Rep. Mike McDonald; state Sen. Jo Ann Graves; Sumner County Executive Hank Thompson; state Agriculture Commissioner Ken Givens, who is also chairman of the Governor's Task Force on Methamphetamine Abuse; Betsy Dunn of the state Department of Children's Services; Dr. Sullivan Smith, the emergency room medical director of Cookeville Regional Medical Center; 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Attorney General Bill Gibson; Jeff Boles, director of the environmental science doctoral program at Tennessee Technological University; and Harry Sommers, assistant special agent in charge of the Nashville district office of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

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