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FLOOR DEBATE

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been working with Oklahoma's new law says Woodward attributed the effect of the law there largely to the requirement that pseudoephedrine buyers sign logbooks. There's no sense passing an antimeth law aimed at reducing in-state production of the drug, he said, without a logbook requirement that mandates retailers track purchases and give law enforcement a record of buys. As an example, he explained, Oklahoma law enforcement's recent bust of a meth ring near Enid that resulted in 22 arrests, meth cookers, he said, bought pseudoephedrine on 150 different occasions at a Walgreens store that didn't adequately check its logbooks to ensure buyers didn't purchase more than what was allowed. The reason they targeted that Walgreens, they said, go to the Walgreens; they don't check your logbooks. Woodward said, not checking logbooks is the same as not having them at all. Law enforcement officials only questioned retailers about their maintenance of the logbooks, he said, if there's a suspicion they are not being checked, and so forth. But then, looking further into Oklahoma law, they are in the process now of establishing a central database, and they have it in their law already that when the central database is up and operating, then all of the pharmacies and all of the transaction points that make these sales will be feeding information into the central database, and from there they can make what is arguably a reasonable attempt to cut down on the purchase of these precursors. The information that is in a bill before the governor now of Oklahoma, tightening up their logbooks and their central data system, the things that they'll be required to log in is the date of the transaction, the name of the purchaser, the driver license number or state identification number, and then they would obviously have the number of the pharmacy or the person conducting the transaction, the product being sold, and the total quantity of pseudoephedrine purchased. So that's basically the process that I think you have to go through and get to, if, in effect, what you really want here is something that's meaningful. If you don't want to do this, it seems to me you ought to go back to step one and stop interfering with the consumers and with the business people, and let business go on as usual with this...with these legal products that are involved in this discussion. But I do think it makes sense to increase the penalties also, if you're going to make this effective because,