TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

March 23, 2006 LB 1060

know what the floor thinks about it because it is a real question, Senator, as to whether this money was essential to providing police protection across the state, or whether it was optional. And I think people on the floor could tell us that. If it...we judged that we could get along without it.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: You're aware that despite all of the hoopla and dust raising about getting rid of these methamphetamine labs by restricting the availability of certain cold medications, you remember all that hoopla from last year, don't you?

SENATOR KRUSE: I do. I remember it well.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And the law was passed and the law enforcement, people who are accountable to nobody, are telling us now that there are fewer of these labs in the state. Is that true?

SENATOR KRUSE: That's correct.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But everybody has to acknowledge that there's been no reduction or diminution in the utilization of methamphetamine in this state. You're aware of that, too, aren't you?

SENATOR KRUSE: I have not seen evidence that there is less use.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So the problem that we have really is not just the number of meth labs, but the number of people who were using methamphetamine, because if nobody used it, it wouldn't matter how many labs there are because they would quickly shrivel on the vine, wouldn't they?

SENATOR KRUSE: Senator, you are correct. It is a huge problem and continues to be a huge problem. I am dismayed...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And this program...

SENATOR KRUSE: ... by the challenge of it.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: This program got a very low grade by an