



**Snohomish County**  
**County Executive's Office**

*For immediate release – Saturday, February 19, 2005*

**Aaron Reardon**  
*County Executive*

M/S #407  
3000 Rockefeller Avenue  
Everett, WA 98201  
(425) 388-3460  
FAX (425) 388-3434  
county.executive@co.snohomish.wa.us  
[www.co.snohomish.wa.us](http://www.co.snohomish.wa.us)

## Reardon urges quick Congressional action on Cantwell anti-meth initiative

--

*Snohomish County Executive joins U.S. Senator at Sunday Everett  
press conference in Everett*

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon today urged Congress to quickly approve anti-methamphetamine legislation introduced by U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-WA., that would pump hundreds of millions of federal dollars into the fight against meth.

Cantwell's Arrest Meth Act of 2005 - S. 430 - would make additional federal money available for:

- Awareness, prevention and community based education;
- Interventions;
- The hiring of and specialized training for law enforcement; and,
- Seizures and clean ups of clandestine meth labs.

Snohomish County has responded aggressively to a dramatic increase in methamphetamine use in the past decade, one in which fully 20 percent of the people booked into the County Jail tested positive for the drug. In 2004 the County contributed more than \$700,000 from its general fund to a Regional Drug Task Force, supported Juvenile and Adult Drug Courts that serve almost 200 people and underwrites education and rehabilitation programs.

But more money is needed: A recent state Department of Social and Health Services study revealed that public funding – including dollars from local, state and federal

governments – can meet just 17 percent of the treatment needed for meth addiction in Snohomish County.

“My administration is working hard to rid our communities of the meth scourge, but we cannot do it alone,” Reardon said. “We have the necessary drug enforcement and treatment systems in place, but we need additional Federal support to combat this growing problem.”

The Snohomish County Executive said his administration, in partnership with Washington’s congressional delegation, is ready to make a more focused effort at bringing federal dollars back to the County. But he was critical of the Bush administration’s 2006 federal budget, one that would spend far fewer dollars on fighting meth than what Cantwell wants.

“Sen. Cantwell is asking for \$100 million,” Reardon said. “The President’s budget requests just \$20 million. Snohomish County and communities across the nation will be better off if the Cantwell Act becomes law.”

The Arrest Meth Act authorizes \$100 million in 2006 and 2007. The figure would increase to \$200 million in 2008, 2009 and 2010.

“Sen. Cantwell’s legislation would dedicate long-term resources to Snohomish County so that we can more effectively protect our communities,” Reardon said.

Reardon joined Cantwell and U.S. Rep. Rick Larsen, D-Arlington, co-chair of the House Meth Caucus, Sunday, at Everett Fire Department’s Station 1 for a press conference on Cantwell’s Arrest Meth Act of 2005

##

For additional information, please contact:

Mark Funk  
Executive Management Analyst  
Snohomish County  
(425) 388-3623  
mark.funk@co.snohomish.wa.us

