



**Representative Veronica Gonzales**

# Rep. Gonzales Sees Unanimous Passage of HB 271

*Meth Lab Home Disclosure Improves Public Safety*

AUSTIN - Representative Veronica Gonzales (D - McAllen) passed her first bill of the 80th Legislature on Tuesday with unanimous support of the House. HB 271 requires disclosure by home sellers whether they are aware of any previous use of a residence for the manufacture of methamphetamines.

Residents living in former meth labs can suffer long-term effects such as cancer; damage to the central nervous system, liver, kidneys; birth defects and miscarriages. Representative Gonzales stated, "A home is a huge investment - for many of us our largest investment - and buyers should know exactly what they are getting. HB 271 protects the public from the lingering effects of meth labs."

Representative Gonzales' bill defends the interests of buyers and sellers.

"The disclosure protects those in the chain of sale - that is the seller, the realtor and most importantly, it protects the buyer of the home. Children are especially vulnerable to develop adverse health effects from exposure to residue from methamphetamines," stated Representative Gonzales. Like mold, if meth labs have not been properly cleaned, young children and others with compromised immune systems can suffer respiratory problems for the rest of their lives. "Meth is the new mold," said Gonzales. "Disclosure in this bill promotes consumer health and the integrity of the real estate industry."

In 2005 alone, Texas seized 269 meth labs which raised the urgency to address the need to extend the protection of buyers' health as well as the liability of banks and realtors selling homes that were previously used to manufacture methamphetamines. "I commend the state and

local authority's efforts to prevent and reduce the existence of meth labs, but it is also necessary to address how to deal with

the long term effects produced by meth labs after they have ceased to exist," said Gonzales.

*State Representative Veronica Gonzales is currently serving her second term representing parts of McAllen and Hidalgo County in the Texas House. In addition to serving on the influential Judiciary and Public Health Committees, Representative Gonzales has also been elected by her colleagues to serve as Secretary of the House Democratic Caucus and has been appointed to the National Conference State Legislature standing committee on Health. TBB*