

Being a law enforcement officer is sometimes a difficult and thankless job. There are hours spent away from family, dangerous situations and the heartbreak involved in tragic situations of life and death. But, as police officers, we know that each day is an opportunity to serve our communities and make a difference in the lives of people around us. It truly is an honor, and we are blessed to serve.

National Police Week gives us all, including me, the opportunity to honor and thank the brave women and men of law enforcement, those who serve in the Livingston County Sheriff's Office and all of our law enforcement colleagues across Michigan as well. To all of you on the front lines, and to those we have lost in the line of duty, we salute you.

Our law enforcement professionals do so many great things for which we are thankful during police week. While there are many successes, one important fight is the battle we wage against illegal and dangerous drugs, like opioids and methamphetamine. Officers, Troopers and Deputies have become all too familiar with the impact these drugs have on the individual, the family unit, and the ancillary crimes being committed as a result of usage.

Years ago, local meth production was a significant problem in Michigan. Criminals would buy large quantities of common cold and allergy medicines, like Sudafed or Claritin-D, that contain pseudoephedrine (PSE), to illegally make meth. By working together with state lawmakers and pharmacists, we now use the National Precursor Log Exchange (NPLEx) technology to spot, in real time, attempted illegal sales of over-the-counter cold and allergy medicine, so it cannot be abused.

While there has been a significant decline in production, our job is not over. Most meth now comes from Mexico. We will continue using all the tools at our disposal to prevent any resurgence of meth production here at home.

This is just one example of law enforcement officers working tirelessly to help keep our communities safe. During this National Police Week, please take time out to thank and support your local officers for their service, and say a prayer for those who sacrificed their lives in the line of service. I stand with these officers and their families and we know that you do, too.