

IMMIGRANTS: Continued from FRONT

The suit, brought by immigration advocacy groups, argued the Trump administration violated proper rulemaking procedures in creating the application. The groups also warned in court documents that use of the application “will lead to racial profiling and the mistaken targeting of U.S. citizens.”

The registration requirement is authorized under a wartime act known as the Alien Registration Act of 1940 that was first used in World War II.

The requirement was rarely used until the aftermath of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

During that time, any noncitizen males older than 16 who hailed from 25 Muslim-majority countries had to register with the U.S. government.

The program, the National Security Entry-Exit Registration System, led to no terrorism convictions and was dissolved in 2016.

Under the requirement in place Friday, those who are required to register include immigrants who entered the U.S. without legal authority and Canadian visitors in the U.S. for more than 30 days.

Those who do not have to register include lawful permanent residents, immigrants with work visas or certain other visas and those in removal proceedings.

kentuckylantern.com

Kentucky joins effort to stop unlawful robocalls

FRANKFORT — Kentucky Attorney General Russell Coleman is taking new action to protect Kentuckians from a growing wave of illegal robocalls, joining a bipartisan coalition of 51 attorneys general as part of the Anti-Robocall Multistate Litigation Task Force.

On April 12, the task force issued warning notices to multiple voice service providers believed to be routing illegal robocalls, placing them in possible violation of state and federal law. In addition to these warnings, the task force has referred its concerns to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for further review. “Kentuckians continue to be the target of unlawful

robocalls, which can be everything from annoying to downright predatory,” said Attorney General Coleman. “Along with attorneys general across the country, we’re fighting back against those who try to take advantage of Kentuckians.”

According to national robocall index data, Kentuckians received approximately 58 million robocalls in March alone. The warnings follow ongoing efforts by the task force to urge the FCC to strengthen its Robocall Mitigation Database and increase enforcement. The task force’s investigation included a detailed analysis of providers found to have routed significant amounts of suspicious or illegal robocall traffic.

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Kentucky Attorney General joins national push against illegal Chinese e-cigarettes

FRANKFORT — Kentucky Attorney General Russell Coleman is urging federal action to stop the import and sale of illegal Chinese-made e-cigarettes that he says are targeting American children. On April 11, Coleman announced that Kentucky has joined a coalition of 29 attorneys general asking the Trump Administration to coordinate with states to crack down on illicit vaping products. In a letter addressed to U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi, U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., and others, the group outlined their concerns about illegal, flavored e-cigarettes being smuggled

into the country from China.

“These Chinese vapes are illegal for a reason, and we must do all we can to keep them out of the hands of our children,” Coleman said. “These dangerous products are filled with toxins and chemicals designed to addict and harm our kids.”

The letter cites billions of dollars’ worth of illegal Chinese vaping products entering the U.S. market last year, many of them using bright packaging, sweet flavors, and video-game imagery to appeal to minors. Authorities say most of these products evade FDA review and are often mislabeled to bypass detection by customs

officials.

The attorneys general are calling on the Trump Administration to take several steps, including prioritizing enforcement through a federal multi-agency task force, empowering U.S. Customs and Border Protection to seize illicit products, prosecuting violators, and increasing penalties for those who assist in the illegal distribution of e-cigarettes.

President Trump had previously taken steps to restrict these products during his first term. The coalition says renewed efforts are needed to stem the recent surge of illegal imports.

The letter was led by Iowa and joined by attorneys general from Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyoming, Guam, and Kentucky.

Separately, Coleman announced that Kentucky recently secured a legal victory defending its vaping regulations. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit unanimously denied the vaping industry’s attempt to block Kentucky’s vapor product laws.

Survey finds Kentuckians struggle with health care, affordability and access

By MELISSA PATRICK
Kentucky Health News

A survey by The Asclepius Initiative found that Kentuckians face significant challenges in affording and accessing health care, even with insurance, according to a news release from the group.

“Even those who are insured have trouble affording health care, which is likely one of the contributing factors to Kentucky’s poor health status,” said Dr. Susan Bornstein, founder and CEO of The Asclepius Initiative.

The data confirms this, with a large percentage of both insured and uninsured individuals reporting they forgo necessary medical care or medications due to cost. The complexity of the system only exacerbates the problem, with many struggling to understand and utilize their coverage effectively.

“I was actually surprised that just under 40% reported being ‘not knowledgeable’ about using their health care coverage,” Bornstein

said. “Given how incredibly complex the system is, I would have thought that number would have been much higher.”

Key findings from the 2024 survey of just over 1,000 Kentucky adults include:

- High rates of foregoing care due to cost: 87% of uninsured individuals surveyed and 55% of insured individuals reported delaying or forgoing medical care or medications because of cost.
- Rural disparities: People residing in rural communities were more likely to forgo medical care or medications (61%) than those living in urban areas (53%). Even among those with health insurance, the disparity persists (60% rural, 51% urban).
- Knowledge gaps: 38% reported feeling not knowledgeable about using their health care coverage.
- Support for universal health care: A significant majority of those surveyed (79%) believe that health care is a basic human right. This sentiment is shared across party lines, with 72%

of Republicans, 89% of Democrats, and 80% of independents agreeing. Support for a national health care coverage program that would provide coverage for everyone rose from 67% in 2022 to 73% in 2024.

- Desire for comprehensive coverage: 86% believe that health care coverage should include hearing, vision and dental care. This is up from 65% in 2022.
- Impact on life choices: Nearly half (47%) indicated they would make life changes such as retiring or going back to school if they didn’t have to worry about health care coverage.

The survey also highlighted the challenges Kentuckians face in navigating the complexities of the current health care system:

- 69% reported at least one challenge in obtaining health care coverage, with the cost of premiums (31%) and finding a plan that meets their needs (29%) being the most common issues. Nearly 10% reported not knowing where to start. More than 60% reported at least one obstacle in

using their health care coverage.

- One-third of those with health care coverage reported that it was difficult to know the costs of health care before receiving services.

The survey found that the financial burden of health care is a major concern for Kentuckians.

With half of the respondents reporting worry about health care expenses for themselves or their families at least once a month, Bornstein said: “Our health care financing system is affecting the quality of and constraining the way people live their lives. Our system creates tremendous vulnerability in coverage and getting necessary care because you can lose your insurance due to common occurrences like changing jobs, divorce, moving to a different state or earning too much or too little for various types of coverage. It makes us sick-er.”

Full survey results can be found at asclepiusinitiative.org/survey.

kyhealthnews.net

How to contact your elected officials:

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