

Your smartphone is your home's biggest threat

Attorney General, lawmakers headline inaugural KBC policy forum

BY LAWRENCE SMITH
KENTUCKY TODAY

Kentucky Attorney General Russell Coleman, a former FBI agent and former U.S. Attorney, says he thought he knew what a “threat” looked like. “I was used to what violence looked like, what the drug threat looked like, but I wasn't used to the most exigent threat facing our families.” With that, Coleman asked his audience to hold up their smart phones.

“Every man, every pastor, every leader, every mom, every grandmother in this room has one of these,” he said. “What you just held up is easily the most dangerous item in your home.”

Coleman spoke at the Kentucky Baptist Convention's first-ever Faith & Public Policy Forum — fresh off winning an historic legal victory over Meta, the parent company of Facebook and Instagram.

Kentucky was part of a multi-state coalition that filed a federal lawsuit arguing that Meta deliberately designed its platforms to exploit young users' vulnerabilities, foster compulsive use and maximize the time young people spend on its social media platforms.

On Wednesday, Meta settled the case for \$18 billion, of which Kentucky will receive more than \$350 million. It was the largest consumer protection settlement in American history. But Coleman said the case was about more than money. As part of the deal, he said Meta will be changing the way it does business, including time limits and dark periods when kids cannot access Facebook and Instagram without parental approval.

“This fight is not against big tech. This fight is against the evil that manifests itself and has manifested itself in this technology. It's technology that's seeking to addict your kids, that's seeking to make money off your kids or gain access to your kids ... This fight is the opioid fight of my time in office,” Coleman said.

“I ask you this, as your attorney general, I ask you this as a dad of three kids, in the discus-



Kentucky Attorney General Russell Coleman said people may check the locks on their doors twice before they go to sleep, but if their children have cell phones, it's like opening the door wide open to predators. Coleman provided an update at the Faith and Public Policy Forum at the Kentucky Baptist Convention about legal action aimed at protecting families from online predatory businesses. (Kentucky Today/Robin Cornet et)



Kentucky Baptist Convention Communications Director Lawrence Smith, left, moderates a panel discussion during the Faith and Public Policy Forum with state lawmakers (left to right) Rep. Jason Petrie, Rep. Jason Nemes, Sen. Max Wise and Sen. Chris McDaniel. (Kentucky Today/Robin Cornet et)

sions that you have as pastors and as leaders, please talk about this.”

More than 70 pastors and ministry leaders attended the forum, where the KBC outlined its top priorities for the 2027 legislative session as approved by the convention's Public Affairs Committee.

- Stopping the influx of abortion pills into Kentucky
- A medical conscience bill to protect health care workers from being forced to perform procedures that violate their sincerely held religious beliefs
- Restoring the 10 Commandments to Kentucky public school classrooms
- Protecting faith-based foster care and child welfare agencies such as Sunrise Children's Services from discrimination by the state

Sen. Steve Rawlings (R-Burlington) said he plans to sponsor a bill that would declare mifepristone and misoprostol, the two drugs used in self-abortions, to be controlled substances because of the potential harm to the women who use them.

Rawlings cited a study by the Ethics and Public Policy Center found nearly 11 percent of women who took mifepristone experienced a serious adverse event within 45 days.

“There were infections, sepsis, hospital visits,” said Rawlings. “These women, these girls, are getting the pills at home and they are on their own, so they've got no medical oversight, no doctor, no supervision, no follow-up; and apparently the abortion industry is fine with that.”

Louis Hatcher, vice president of strate-

gic and legal affairs for Sunrise Children's Services, emphasized the critical need for the so-called “Sunrise Bill” protecting faith-based child welfare agencies from state discrimination.

Hatcher pointed out that, over the years, Sunrise has spent valuable time and resources that could have been spent helping children, defending itself against government attempts to shut down the agency because of Sunrise's biblical stance on LGBTQ issues.

“Kentucky has one paragraph of statutory protection dedicated to religious freedom. One paragraph. It's an anemic piece of legislation that has no real en-

forcement teeth,” said Hatcher. “That is absolutely unacceptable.”

Hatcher said a bill that would have addressed the issue never made it out of committee during the 2026 session, and he called on lawmakers to step up.

The forum included a panel of four legislative leaders.

Sens. Max Wise (R-Campbellsville) and Chris McDaniel (R-Ryland Heights), along with Reps. Jason Nemes (R-Middleton) and Jason Petrie (R-Elkton), affirmed the importance of the KBC priorities and encouraged Kentucky Baptists to be engaged with their legislators.

“There's advocacy that can be given for bills and topics and priorities by making phone calls, stopping in, getting to know your legislator, visiting them, emails,” Petrie told the crowd. But he also urged advocates to be educated about the issues they care about.

“Make sure that we understand the issues,” he said. “You're going to get questions ... so, you'd better be ready to push back on it in a civilized, Christian-like manner, but in an informed manner.”

The program also included presentations from KBC public policy partners Alliance Defending Freedom, the Family Foundation of Kentucky and the Commonwealth Policy Center.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Dear Resident,

Sanitation District No. 1 of Green County, aka Summersville Sewer works hard to provide safe, reliable wastewater treatment to our community. However, we are experiencing an increase in sewer blockages caused by improper items being flushed down the toilet or poured down the sink.

Even items marked “flushable” do not break down in the sewer system. They get caught in pipes and pumps leading to equipment failure and expensive backups. A typical jetting service can cost \$400 and the pump \$1,800.

Items that are NOT to be flushed or poured down a sink include:

- *baby wipes
- *personal hygiene wipes,
- *disinfecting wipes
- *paper towels
- *facial tissues
- *napkins
- *feminine hygiene products and applicators
- *dental floss
- *cotton swabs
- *diapers
- *medications
- *fats, oils, and grease

Customers who are found to be the source of sewer blockages due to improper disposal will be held financially responsible for repair costs.

We ask for your cooperation in protecting our sewer system.

Sincerely,
Board members,
Barbie Milby
Marty Glanzer
Shirley Bale

ABSOLUTE ESTATE AUCTION

ONLINE – Sept 1 thru Sept 8

Tractor – Tools – Shop Items
Attachments – Golf Cart

145 Timothy Lane,
Hodgenville, KY

ABSOLUTE ESTATE AUCTION

ONLINE – Sept 8 thru Sept 15

Tractors – Trucks – Trans Am
Equipment – Implements

11287 N Jackson Hwy,
Magnolia, KY

Estate of Rickey Nelson Howell

Visit [HodgesAuction.com](https://www.hodgesauction.com) for Online Personal Property Auctions!



HODGES Auction Company, Inc.
“The Silliest Team Around”
Since 1987
319 S. Mulberry St.
Elizabethtown, KY 42701

Like us on Facebook for updates on auctions.
270-765-4308
www.hodgesauction.com

BOOK
YOUR 2026
Auction
NOW!

GO TO [HODGESAUCTION.COM](https://www.hodgesauction.com)
FOR UPDATES ON OTHER AUCTIONS.

Verses of the Week
“Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut.” Isaiah 45:1 (KJV)

