



Photo submitted

MAHA Kentucky Task Force approves recommendations aimed at improving health

BY MELISSA PATRICK
KENTUCKY HEALTH NEWS

The Make America Healthy Again Kentucky Task Force has unanimously approved a series of recommendations for lawmakers to consider when the General Assembly convenes for the 2026 legislative session.

The panel’s recommendations center around three common themes: improving access to healthy foods; focusing on physical health and wellness; and treating the root causes of disease through the use of functional medicine, according to a news release.

The task force, co-chaired by Sen. Shelley Funke

Frommeyer, R-Alexandria, and Rep. Matt Lockett, R-Nicholasville, met seven times over the legislature’s interim period, learning from health and wellness advocates about their programs. Lockett noted that their insight has helped shape the task force’s vision.

Funke Frommeyer said in the release that the task force’s work throughout the interim will likely result in legislation during the upcoming legislative session.

Lockett underscored the growing recognition that nutrition, prevention and healthy lifestyle choices are central to improving long-term outcomes for Kentucky families.

“Improving Kentucky’s

health outcomes is a priority and touches every facet of quality of life here in the commonwealth,” he said in the release. “We have a real opportunity to lead the nation in redefining what healthy communities look like, and these recommendations represent the first steps toward a stronger, healthier future for all Kentuckians.”

In July, the task force learned that Kentucky ranks

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Drug linked to nearly 50 Kentucky deaths moves closer to nationwide ban, AG says

BY MELISSA PATRICK
KENTUCKY HEALTH NEWS

A drug blamed for the death of nearly 50 Kentuckians last year is one step closer to being taken off the streets throughout the United States, state Atty. Gen. Russell Coleman announced in a Dec. 19 news release.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration has formally announced the Trump Administration’s intention to add bromazepam to the federal schedule of controlled substances. This move will empower law enforcement across the country to crack down on the drug and will increase awareness of the drug’s potentially deadly effects. Earlier this year, Coleman led a 21-state coalition calling on the DEA to schedule the drug.

Although there are still additional steps in the federal regulatory process, the DEA’s announcement is a major step toward protecting Kentuckians

and all Americans from bromazepam. By temporarily classifying bromazepam as a Schedule I drug, the DEA acknowledges it has a high potential for abuse, and there is no currently accepted medical use in the U.S.

Commonly called “designer Xanax,” bromazepam is being passed off as prescription pills, including benzodiazepines, which are used to treat conditions such as anxiety disorders, insomnia and seizures. Sold illicitly on the streets and online, bromazepam has proven to be both highly potent and even lethal, especially when combined with opioids or other central nervous system depressants.

In an August letter to the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Coleman called on Kentucky health officials to ban the drug in the commonwealth, writing, “Your

action could have an immediate and lifesaving impact on Kentuckians across our commonwealth.”

Gov. Andy Beshear banned the drug within two weeks of that request through an emergency state designation that changed the drug to a Schedule 1 controlled substance.

“Law enforcement must

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1. William R Wooldridge requesting a variance to be 3' off the southern side property line to build a garage at 251 Cassidy Drive.
2. Glenn A. & Sherry W. Bocking requesting a variance to be 5.28 feet off their northern side property line to construct a garage at 5249 Little Union Road.
Information on the above applications is available for review in the zoning office Monday – Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.
Julie Sweazy, Administrator
Taylorsville-Spencer County Joint Planning & Zoning Commission

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