

Advocates push for mental health parity in insurance

BY LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION

FRANKFORT — Two lawmakers joined with advocates from the mental health profession on Tuesday, urging the Interim Joint Committee on Banking and Insurance to support proposed legislation that seeks to improve mental health parity in insurance.

Rep. Vanessa Grossl, R-Georgetown, and Rep. Lisa Willner, D-Louisville, testified in support of the measure along with Sheila Schuster, chair of the Kentucky Mental Health Coalition, and Nicole Sartini, president of Bridge Counseling and Wellness in Louisville.

“The Kentucky General Assembly has recognized mental health as an issue for a number of years, and mental health needs to remain a priority for us,” Grossl told the committee.

She said a measure from 2021 required insurers to treat mental health the same as physical health, and “we’re here today to discuss fidelity issues with that law to ensure that insurers are following the law with fidelity and that proper enforcement mechanisms are in place for those who do not.”

Grossl said the Kentucky Department of Insurance’s ability to implement the current law has drawn concern.

“Reports from the department have not addressed mental health parity nor did last month’s department update testimony to this committee. We believe addition-



Rep. Lisa Willner, D-Louisville, right, testifies Tuesday on Bill Request 74 during a meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Banking and Insurance. With Willner is Sheila Schuster, chair of the Kentucky Mental Health Coalition.

al legislative oversight is warranted,” she said. “At this point, we should have already been presented with two full years’ worth of data via those annual reporting requirements that the bill clarified for insurers.”

The proposed legislation would give oversight and enforcement capabilities to the legislature and the Kentucky Office of the Attorney General. It would also support consumers and providers with an advisory committee of experts in the field that reports to the attorney general, Grossl said.

The proposed legislation can be found here.

Willner, a licensed psychologist, said the bill is fully bipartisan.

“That’s because mental health care is not a partisan issue,” she said, noting similar legislation from last year.

“I also want to point out that the bill is watermarked ‘draft,’ so this is

very much a work in progress.”

Willner said there has been significant policy progress on behavioral health parity in Kentucky and federally, but enforcement and situations providers face remain significant challenges.

“Access to in-network behavioral health services remains significantly less than access to in-network medical and surgical treatments,” she said.

The federal 2008 Mental Health Parity and Addictions Equity Act requires that health plans not design or apply financial requirements or treatment limitations differently for behavioral health than they would be for comparable medical or surgical benefits, but the burdens remain in Kentucky and federally, Willner said.

Several legislators had questions for the individuals who testified. One of them was Sen. Julie Rague Adams, R-Louisville, who

asked about mental health professionals who receive claw backs from insurers.

“Do you have to have any sort of pre-authorization before you administer services,” she asked.

Sartini said her practice provides outpatient services and deals with fewer pre-authorizations than others.

“We’re seeing that these are happening sometimes because someone has a primary insurance and then they also have a secondary insurance. And even though we are billing under the primary insurance, there’s a conflict that sometimes causes claw backs, and no one will agree to pay for it,” she said.

Rep. Adrielle Camuel, D-Lexington, said mental health parity is a com-

plicated issue, and she respects mental health professionals but has concerns that the proposed legislation in its current form doesn’t open avenues for access to care.

Rep. Jim Gooch Jr., R-Providence, said it sounds reasonable that there should be mental health parity, but he thinks the mental health industry “over compensates, over treats, over prescribes.”

He said many children are diagnosed with a condition that schools must approach like a disability.

“Now the educators have to look at them and consider their disability in how they accept behavior... because their disability may cause some particular action or some way they act out,” he said.

Rep. Chad Aull, D-Lex-

ington, asked about a projected \$300,000 cost in the proposed legislation.

Grossl said it’s preliminarily to hire two paralegals for the attorney general’s office to ensure due diligence is met.

Schuster said unless the legislature acts to ensure insurers follow rules, mental health and addiction problems won’t be solved in Kentucky.

“Very few people are willing to admit that they, or someone in their family, has a mental health or addictive disorder that’s going to need insurance. That’s what stigma does, and it’s still alive and well,” she said.

Legislators can’t act on proposed legislation until the 2026 Regular Session begins in January.

Petitioners appeal insufficiency decision on LaRue property tax levy

BY VICTORIA COX
PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

The committee attempting to recall the LaRue County Board of Education’s recent property tax levy increase has challenged the declaration that the petition was insufficient.

Spearheaded by David Ragland, William “Bill” Manning and Jerry Bird, the petition committee turned in more than 1,000 signatures Oct. 20 to LaRue County Clerk Rhonda Metcalf. The petition was declared insufficient three days later by Metcalf.

In her determination, Metcalf said two of the 88-page document contained “different headings and verbiage than all the other papers of the submitted petition.” On account of KRS 132.017(d)(1) requiring all papers of the petition be “substantially uniform in style,” Metcalf said the petition could not be by statute be declared sufficient.

“The committee felt like the large number of people in our community who had signed the petition would like their voice to be heard,” said Ragland, the committee spokesperson. “That’s all we’re asking for — consideration for those taxpayers who would be paying the tax have an opportuni-

ty to vote on it.”

The declaration was despite the fact that the petition had an adequate number of signatures to recall the tax levy.

An appeal to challenge Metcalf’s decision was filed Friday with the LaRue Circuit Court. The civil suit identifies the Plaintiffs/Petitioners as Ragland, Manning and Bird as taxpayers, voters and members of the Petition Committee. They are being represented by Adrienne Southworth, of Lawrenceburg.

“The way the KRS law is written, it is open to some interpretation,” Ragland said. “It reads that the petition [pages] needs to be substantially uniform in size and style, and it seems to the committee that, to throw the whole process out based upon two [pages] that are the same form but there was just a little extra heading on top, is a very extreme reading of the law.”

Metcalf, in her official capacity as LaRue County Clerk, is identified as the respondent. As legal representative for the county, LaRue County Attorney John Nicholas will be responsible for responding to the claims brought forth by the petitioners on Metcalf’s behalf.

The Bushong’s beautiful home is filled with many treasures collected over a lifetime. Items include, mahogany corner cabinet, pie crust tilt top table and chest, Duncan Phyfe sofa and end table, Victorian chairs, cherry full size and twin poster beds, cherry chests, silverware chest on legs, occasional tables, upholstered chairs, loveseats and sleeper sofa, Jacobean Revival chest, chair, and armoire, maple kitchen table and oak Windsor chairs, stools, lamps, framed art including Paul Sawyer, mirrors, primitive bench and children’s chairs, pine cupboard and mirror, wicker loveseat and chair, leather desk chair, Lenox and Spode sets of china, lots of glassware and decorative objects, kitchen ware, silver plate including cut glass epergne as is, rugs, linens, concrete yard art, Woodard patio furniture, nice washer/dryer, upright freezer, refrigerator, lots of Christmas decor, vintage quilts, needle work pictures and bell pulls, brass fireplace accessories, red wagon, tricycle, Schwinn adult bikes, golf clubs, work bench, yard tools and cart, convalescent supplies, concrete yard statues and lots more. This is our last sale for 2025. Hope to see you there! Photos are available for viewing on Estatesales.org.

Cash or check with proper ID, 3% fee will be added to credit/debit card purchases. We also accept Venmo. All sales are final. No returns or refunds. KY sales tax of 6% will be added unless buyer presents a resale exemption certificate. All items purchased are as-is. We are not responsible for accidents.

YOU MUST bring help to move large items as we DO NOT have staff to assist. All items must be removed by 3pm on Saturday. Please bring boxes and paper to pack your items. Call Donna at 270-903-7859 with questions.

CRAFT

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shoppers even came from places like Cincinnati and St. Louis.

In 2005, the Christmas Craft Show was named one of the Southeast Tourism Society’s Top 20 Events for December.

The Big E’s 30,000-square-foot Exposition Center was always filled.

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“We’re not trying to be the biggest Christmas show around,” Armstrong, the show’s producer, said in 2005. “But we want to be known

as a quality show.”

And they were.

klawrence@messenger-inquirer.com

GARAGE SALE

Triplett Street, 815
(Wendell Foster’s Young Building)
Yard Sale Friday November 7 and Saturday November 8
7am – 12pm
Proceeds go to Wendell Foster
Residents’ Christmas and Birthday Fund

LEGAL NOTICE

385 LIQUOR INC d/b/a 385 LIQUOR hereby declares its intention to apply for Quota Retail Package License, NQ Retail Malt Beverage Package License and Sampling License no later than 11/10/2025. The licensed premises will be located at 385 Violet Rd, Crittenden, KY 41030. The owner of the corporation is RAJIV BABBAR (president) residing at 385 Violet Rd, Crittenden, KY 41030. Any person, association, corporation, or body politic may protest the granting of the license(s) by writing to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, 500 Mero St 2NE33, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601, within thirty (30) days of the date of legal publication.

LEGAL NOTICE

Financial settlements in the estates listed below have been reviewed by the Daviess District Court. Objections or exceptions to these settlements must be filed before 9:30 A.M. on November 25, 2025.

Tonya Lou Alexander Ferrell
Addalynn Baird
William Cottrell
Freddie Haley, Sr.
Gary Ray Clark

Jennifer Hardesty Besecker, Clerk
Daviess District/Circuit Clerk

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MESSENGER-INQUIRER

*Customer count & earnings listed are approximate.

LEGAL NOTICE

The Probate Division of Daviess District Court made Fiduciary appointments for the month of October, 2025, as follows:

LaDonna Maynard, 2502 South Cherokee Drive, 42301, Admnx., of Joseph Maynard estate, 42301, on 10/01/2025. Hollie Lindsey, 127 East Washington Street, Hartford, KY 42347, Atty.

Jordan Lewis, 2201 Bershire Drive, 42301, and Robin Brandon Lewis, 5709 State Route 878, Olaton, KY 42361, Co-Admin’s., of Robin Glenn Lewis estate, 42301, on 10/01/2025. Thomas Meyer, 608 Frederica Street, Suite 301, 42301, Atty.

Edward Krahwinkel, 4522 Doe Run, 42303, Exec of Cevilla Krahwinkel estate, 4522 Doe Run, 42303, on 10/07/2025. R. Scott Plain, 401 Frederica St. 204D, 42301, Atty.

Carla Thomas, 1932 Gunston Place, 42303, Exec of Jean Epper-son estate, 1932 gunston Place, 42303, on 10/07/2025.

Beverly Nance, 1205 Moreland Ave., 42301, Admin of Richard Nance estate, 1205 Moreland Ave., 42301, on 10/07/2025. R. Scott Plain, 401 Frederica St., 204D, 42301, Atty.

Jon Nelson, 201 Aguedult Drive, Apt #3, Richmond, Ky. 40475, Admin of Elnora Nelson estate, 2217 Mill Run, 42303, on 10/7/25.

Dana Thornberry, 3726 Haywood Ct, 42303, Exex of Presley Bullington estate, 3950 Brookside Ct, 42303, on 10/7/25.

David Christopher Taylor, 10 Oriole Path, Liverpool, NY, 13090, Admin of David Louis Taylor estate, 1405 E Parrish Ave, 42301, on 10/8/25.

Amy Rymer, 312 Mill Run Circle, Nashville, TN 37221, Admin of James Fitzhugh estate. 2701 Frederica St., #4302, 42301, on 10/08/2025

Ruby Roberts, 2201 Fairway Dr., 42301, Exec of Taylor Roberts, Jr. estate, 2201 Fairway Dr., 42301, on 10/08/2025.

Vernon Wathen, 4428 Wayne Bridge Road, 42301, Exec of Bertha Wathen estate, 5128 Highway 56, 42301, on 10/9/2025. David M. Johnson, 4830 Towne Square Ct., 42301, Atty.

Kristie Hancock, 155 Jim Moore Lane, Hanson, KY 42413, Exec of Ella Donovan estate, 1016 East 21st St., 42303, on 10/09/2025. Kurtis Sunset, 2806 New Hartford Rd., 42303, Atty.

Roy L Adams, Jr, PO Box 1661, 42302, Exec of Roy L Adams estate, 1900 Pleasant Valley Road, 42303, on 10/8/25. R Scott Plain, 401 Frederica St, 204D, 42301, Atty.

Julia Gordon, 901 Yelvington Grandview Rd, Maceo, Ky, 42355, and John Sale Gordon, II, 690 Browns Valley Rd, Utica, Ky, 42376, Co-Admins of Dalton Samuel Hawes Gordon estate, 901 Yelvington Grandview Rd, Maceo, Ky, 42355, on 10/09/25. Nick Goetz, 121 W 2nd Street, 42302, Atty.

Dennis Shane Thompson, 3324 Old Mill Lane, 42303 and Shannon Lee Robbins, 2103 Meadowhill Lane, Utica, Ky, 42376, Co-Exec’s of Noretta Thompson estate, 2501 Old Hartford Road, 42303, on 10/14/2025.

Brenda Sandefur, 10221 Possum Trot Road, 42301, Exex of Johnnie Ray Sandefur estate, 10221 Possum Trot Road, 42301, on 10/14/2025.

William Joseph Blincoe, 4827 Hunters Chase Court, 42303, Exec of Dolores P Blincoe estate, 2508 Heartlands Green Point, 42303, on 10/14/2025. Charles J Kamuf, 221 West Second Street, 42303, Atty.

Marcia Carpenter, 1649 Griffith Ave., 42301, Exec of Jeff Carpenter estate, 1649 Griffith Ave., 42301, on 10/14/2025. William Wilson, 108 Frederica St., Suite 200, 42301, Atty.

Judy Thompson, 747 Greenbriar St., 42301, Exec of Jimmie Thompson estate, 747 Greenbriar St., 42301, on 10/14/2025. Samuel Lee, 209 W. 4th St., 42303, Atty.

Sherry Jackson, 4476 State Route 554, 42376, Exec of Beverly Luttrell estate, 4476 State Route 554, 42376, on 10/21/2025.

Regina Vincent, 4188 State Route 81, Central City, KY 42330, Admnx., of Logan Walker estate, 1200 Rose Hill Drive, 42303, on 10/21/2025. Hollie Lindsey, 127 East Washington Street, Hartford, KY 42347, Atty.

Bruce Hagerman, 283 Ridgecrest Place, 42301 and Pamela Mul-ligan, 7250 Hwy 815, 42301, Co-Exec’s of Janada Hagerman es-tate, 2160 Crestwood Drive, 42301, on 10/21/25. Mark Starnes, 608 Frederica Street, Suite 201, 42301, Atty.

Linda Blincoe, 1531 Kelly Lane, 42303, Exex of Margaret Blincoe estate, 1531 Kelly Lane, 42303, on 12/21/2025.

Jennay Crowe, 411 Boren Street, Springfield, TN, 37172, Exex of Anna Westerfield estate, 2252 Southeastern Pkwy, 42303, on 10/21/25. Robert Cooley, 1412 Frederica Street, 42301, Atty.

Alexis Nichole Payne, 2205 3rd Avenue, Opelika, Alabama, 36801, Exex of Joseph Payne, Jr estate, 1460 Yelvington Knotts-ville Road, Maceo, Ky, 42355, on 10/21/25. Ed Hoskins, 209 West Fourth Street, 42303, Atty.

Dylan Miller, 4815 Oak Park Drive, Louisville, Ky, 40258, Admin of Stephanie Lynn Carpenter estate, 1601 Mayo Avenue, 42301, on 10/21/25. Nicholas Goetz, 121 W. 2nd Street, 42302, Atty.

Thomas Goetz, 808 W 12th Street, 42301, Admin of Marvin Al-berst Goetz estate, 808 W 12th Street, 42301, on 10/21/2025. Marty Jacobs, 1110 Frederica Street, 42301, Atty.

John Nicholas Stefanopoulos, 4125 Farmington Court, 42303, Exex of Mary Judith Stefanopoulos estate, 5113 Graham Lane, 42303, on 10/22/25. T Tommy Littlepage, 608 Frederica St, Suite 200, 42301, Atty.

Randy Rickard, 73 Maden Loop, Utica, Ky, 42376, Admin of Barney Rickard estate, 5012 Grandview Drive, 42303, on 10/22/25.

Patricia Simon, 1581 Creek Haven Loop, 42303, Exex of John Nesmith estate, 192 Lafayette Drive, 42303, on 10/22/25.

Timothy Martin Wilkerson, 6565 Aull Road, 42366, Exec of Carol Wilkerson estate, 4005 Pine Lake Court, 42303, on 10/22/2025. Matt Tierney, 100 West 3rd St. STE 302, 42303, Atty.

James Murphy, 617 Stableford Circle, 42303, Richard Murphy, 8040 Pond River Road, 42301 and Martha Warren, 9954 Jen-nings Road, 42301, Co-Exec’s of Delia Murphy estate, 1614 W Parrish Avenue, 42301, on 10/21/25. Donna Dant, PO Box 125, Calhoun, Ky, 42327, Atty.

David Robinson, 158 Fairdale Road, Salina, KS 67401, Exec., of Audrey Robinson estate, 2212 Iron Leige Court, 42301, on 10/22/2025. David Johnson, 4830 Towne Square Court, 42301, Atty.

Kathryn Murphy, 3535 Mountain Creek Road, Apt A16, Chat-tanooga, TN 37415, Extx., of Elizabeth Johnson estate, 3911 Lo-cust Hill Drive, 42303, on 10/22/2025. William Wilson, Jr., 608 Frederica Street, Suite 200, 42301, Atty.

Steven Ford, 1908 Griffith Ave., 42301, Exec of Ruby Ford es-tate, 2017 Fieldcrest Dr., 42301, on 10/28/2025. R. Scott Plain Jr., 401 Frederica St., 204D., 42301, Atty.

Alena Allen, 15144 Old State Rd, Evansville, IN, 47725, Admix of Freda Poiles estate, 2908 Dixiana Ct, 42303, on 10/28/25. Russ Wilkey, 111 West 2nd Street, 42303, Atty. \

Michael Lee Ranney, 4030 Pine Lake Court, 42303, Exex of Car-olyn Ranney estate. Nicholas Volk, 209 W. Fourth Street, 42303, Atty.

Julie Beyke, 7508 Millet Place, Crestwood, Ky, 40014, Exex of Nancy Barnhart estate, 832 Greenbriar Street, 42301, on 10/28/25. Terra Knight, 209 West Fourth Street, 42303, Atty.

Tracy Cecil, 8362 Cecil Road, 42301, Admix of Mary Hall estate, 3003 Epworth Drive, 42303, on 10/28/25.

Helen Phillips, 264 Irene Drive, 42303, Admix of Wilford Crowe estate, 3816 Willow Way, 42303, on 10/28/25.

Shelly Hamilton, 916 Isaac Shelby Dr., 42303, Exec of William Hamilton estate, 963 Reid Road, 42303, on 10/29/2025.

Jennifer Hardesty Besecker, Clerk
Daviess District/Circuit Clerk