

Is Your Child Being Bullied? Watch For These Signs

Bullying is a considerable problem that currently affects many students. The National Center for Education Statistics notes one of every five students reported being bullied in 2022. In a multi-national study across 83 countries, 30.5 percent of adolescents reported being bullied, according to eClinical Medicine.

Bullying always has been troubling, but children now face the threat of cyberbullying as well as in-person bullying. The

connectivity offered by the internet and social media enables bullies to be relentless, even reaching children when they are at home and physically distant from their peers. The 2023 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicated that an estimated 16 percent of high school students were electronically bullied in the 12 months prior to the survey.

Parents and caregivers can be diligent in recognizing bullying in an effort to protect children. Here are



10 signs a child may be a victim of bullying.

- Unexplained injuries
- Lost or destroyed personal belongings
- Frequently expressing not feeling well or faking illness
- Changes in eating habits
- Difficulty sleeping and experiencing nightmares
- Decreased self-esteem or feelings of helplessness
- Self-destructive behaviors like harming themselves or talking about sui-

cide

- Fear of going to school
- Changes in school performance, including declining grades
- Asking for money or stealing money

These are some of the indicators that a child is being bullied. Bullying can occur at school or during extracurricular activities. Bullying also can occur online. Kids may hesitate or even refuse to ask for help, which means that adults may need to intervene at the first signs of bullying.

U.S. Senate Unlikely To Pass Bill Extending ACA Tax Credits

By Melissa Patrick
Kentucky Health News

The U.S. Senate is expected to vote Thursday on a Democratic bill to extend the existing Affordable Care Act tax credits for three years, but multiple news sources say it is unlikely the bill will get enough votes to pass.

The enhanced health care subsidies created during the Covid-19 pandemic will expire at the end of the month unless Congress acts. And while people can still get tax credits, they will be reduced so premiums will go up.

At a November 18 ThriveKY meeting, David Verry, assistant director with the state's Division of Health Plan Oversight, said without the enhanced tax credits, "The majority, 58% or so, are seeing an increase of \$100 or more per month, 10,000

Kentuckians are seeing an increase of \$500 or more per month, and some are seeing increases of over \$1,000 per month."

Dustin Pugel, policy director at the Kentucky Center for Economic Policy, puts it another way in an analysis of what Kentuckians in every county will see if Congress doesn't act to extend the existing tax credits: "This lost support would harm Kentuckians in all 120 counties. For these households, premium costs are likely to double in many cases. A family of four with an income twice the poverty level would see their annual premiums rise from \$2,102 to \$5,361. A 60-year-old couple with a household income of \$85,000 would lose their insurance support entirely and see their annual premium costs

rise from \$7,225 to \$30,886. Many of these people are small business owners or work at a small business or as independent contractors."

The analysis comes with an interactive map of how many Kentuckians used Kynect, Kentucky's health insurance marketplace, for their health insurance in every county in 2025.

The enhanced tax credits, or subsidies, were at the crux of the recent 43-day federal government shutdown.

Gov. Andy Beshear, speaking at a Dec. 4 news conference, urged Congress to allow the tax credits.

"The idea that this Congress would vote to extend tax cuts for the wealthy, but not tax credits for hard-working Americans so that they can see a doctor — that's just wrong," Beshear said. "Healthcare is a basic human right."

Beshear said that if the tax credits are not approved, it will hurt the state's hospitals because they will get fewer dollars from private insurance companies, people will become less healthy, making them less productive in the workforce, and the economy will take a big hit.

"Those are three easy reasons to extend those tax credits, and the people of Kentucky need and deserve them," he said.

Lucas Aulbach, with the Louisville Courier-Journal, reported on what several Kentucky congressmen have to say about the subsidies.

Aulbach reports that U.S. Rep. James Comer, R-Kentucky, said he expects an extension for a year or two to allow "more debate about what type of health care policy to have moving forward."

"It's unfortunate that these conversa-

tions are happening now. They should have happened prior to the August recess," Comer said Dec. 8 at an unrelated press conference. "But I think that there's a real, real desire to see change."

U.S. Rep. Morgan McGarvey, D-Louisville, told reporters at the same press conference Comer attended that affordable health care "continues to be my number one focus."

"I'm hearing stories in Louisville from people who are having their health insurance triple and quadruple per month unless the Republicans extend these tax credits," McGarvey

said. "They must do it, and if they don't do it by the end of the year, then people's healthcare costs are going to skyrocket."

Aulbach reported that "Republicans such as U.S. Sen. Rand Paul have said they cost the country too much and are available to affluent families who can afford their own plans."

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Circuit Court

Continued from Page 1

tively with a separate case. He was also ordered to pay restitution with the amount to be determined at a restitution hearing.

In the case of Michael S. Wilson, the defendant withdrew a not guilty plea and entered a plea of guilty to receiving stolen property \$10,000 or more. Wilson was adjudged guilty and ordered to pay court cost in the amount of \$165 and restitution in the amount of \$7000. A maximum term of five years in prison was probated.

Janis E. Gibson was granted pretrial supervised diversion for a period of five years and ordered to pay a monthly supervision fee to Probation and Parole. She will also pay restitution based on a restitution hearing set for a later date. Other conditions of Gibson's diversion include attending and completing a long-term in-patient treatment program arranged by MBC Outreach and complete treatment and aftercare recommendations. Gibson was originally charged with receiving stolen property \$1000 but less than \$10,000.

Jacob T. Andrews withdrew his not guilty plea and entered a plea of guilty to receiving stolen property \$10,000 or more. He was ordered to pay court costs of \$165 and restitution in the amount of \$2438, and sentenced to five years' incarceration to run consecutively with any other sentences imposed by Webster or any other court.

WCSO November Activity Report

The Webster County Sheriff's Office has the following activity to report for November, 2025.

This data is gathered by individual deputies during the course of their daily duties. This data was compiled and the total activity reported is as follows:

Traffic Stops: 128
Total Citations: 109
DUI: 5
Speed: 20
Seatbelt: 1
Child Restraint: 0
Courtesy Notice: 104
Driver Inspections: 104
Complaints: 321
Special Detail: 95
Directed Patrol: 42
Motorist Assists: 8

Criminal Cases: 10
Criminal Arrests: 49
Accidents Investigated: 24
Programs: 0
Warrant Service: 12
Search Warrant Service: 1
Criminal Summons Served: 6
Civil Process Service: 79
Security/Surveillance: 7
Intelligence Reports: 1
Vehicle Inspections (Office): 399
Victim Contacts: 385
JC3: 3
E Call Response: 0
E Crisis Response: 1
K9 Deployment: 4
Drone Deployment: 0
CSS Referral: 66
Regular Hours: 949.5
Overtime Hours: 91.6

Webster County Jailer's Report

Webster County Jailer Greg Sauls reports inmates worked a total of 1816 hours between November 30 and December 6, 2025. Hours worked include 520 hours at the detention center; 280 hours at the RCC; 80 hours mowing; 360 hours for Union County; 40 hours for the city of Clay; 160 hours for the city of Providence; 40 hours for the city of Dixon; 40 hours for recycling; 40 hours for the road department shop; 40 hours for the dog warden and 16 hours at Landon's Hope.

The total jail population is 181 with 30 county inmates; 30 Union County inmates and 121 state prisoners.

Inmates participated in a number of DOC programs including 33 attended Moral Recognition Therapy with one

graduate; 30 attended Anger Management with four graduates; 18 attended Thinking for Good with one graduate and 16 attended Untangling Relationships with one graduate.

Eight inmates participated in GED classes.

Incarcerated during the same period were Shannon Blake John Brown

Ginger Brumfield
Michael Denton
Abel Desiderio Echeverria
Matthew Lyon
Gary McClain
Dominique McDavis
Steve McLaughlin
David Mills
Robby Morgan
Ellie Parker
Bradley Rakestraw
Robert Ricketts
Jerric Voss

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Second reading of a proposed ordinance amending the Webster County Budget for fiscal year 2025-2026, to include unanticipated receipts from State Fund in the amount of \$529,065, increasing expenditures total to \$529,065, will be held Monday, December 22, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at the Webster County Senior Center. A copy of the proposed ordinance with full text is available for public inspection at the office of the County Judge/Executive during normal business hours.

12/17c

PUBLIC NOTICE

Stacie Batts Webster, 1934 Frankfort Road, New Cumberland, West Virginia 26047, was appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Charles Emerson Batts, who died testate, a resident of Webster County, Kentucky on October 5, 2025, and Lara R. Hunt was appointed as Agent for Service of Process for Stacie Batts Webster. Date of appointment November 4, 2025. Attorney Lara R. Hunt, Hunt & Greene, PSC, 123 East Center Street, Madisonville, Kentucky 42431. Inventory due January 6, 2026. Settlement due November 9, 2027. All claims must be filed within six months of appointment.

Sheila Dacy McCully, 7565 Island Ford Road, Hanson, Kentucky was appointed Administratrix of the Estate of Max A. Dacy, who died testate, a resident of Webster County, Kentucky on October 8, 2025. Date of qualification November 4, 2025. Attorney Bobby R. Murray, 100 North Broadway Street, Providence, Kentucky 42450. Inventory due January 6, 2026. Settlement due November 9, 2027. All claims must be filed within six months of appointment.

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