

Legislation would address physician shortage

Tom Latek
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) – The state Senate is considering legislation directing the University of Kentucky, the University of Louisville and Eastern Kentucky University to coordinate a comprehensive search for actionable solutions to physician and health care shortages and expand health care access in medically underserved areas.

Senate President Robert Stivers, R-Manchester, is the sponsor of Senate Joint Resolution (SJR) 116, which he presented to the Senate Health Services Committee on Wednesday. The measure passed without dissent.

“Access to a doctor should not depend on your ZIP code,” Stivers told the panel. “By bringing our leading universities and partners together, we are taking a focused, data-driven approach to ensure more Kentuckians, especially those in unserved and underserved areas, have access to quality care. Strengthening our physician workforce and other healthcare providers strengthens families, communities, and the Commonwealth as a whole.”

Under the resolution, the three universities will need to collaborate with community partners, state agencies, pro-

fessional associations, and other stakeholders, to identify strategies that address workforce shortages, improve physician retention in underserved areas, and expand access through technology and community-based care models.

More than 75 percent of Kentucky physicians practice in urban areas, leaving many rural counties without adequate access to primary and specialty care. As a result, residents in medically underserved communities must often travel long distances for treatment. This creates financial and transportation barriers that can lead to delayed or foregone care.

“Who is better equipped than our leading universities to solve this healthcare problem?” said Stivers.

According to the Association of American Medical Colleges, 57 percent of medical residents continue practicing in the state where they complete their training. Lawmakers say they believe expanding graduate medical education opportunities in underserved regions could significantly improve long-term physician retention.

SJR 116, if passed by both chambers, is just like bills and carries the weight of law. It now heads to the Senate floor.

Food company expands recall of chicken products

Tom Latek
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) – Ajinomoto Foods North America, Inc., a Portland, Ore., establishment, is expanding its Feb. 19, 2026, recall of frozen not ready to eat (NRTE) chicken products, that may be contaminated with foreign material, specifically glass.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) says the company is recalling approximately 33,617,045 additional pounds of various ready-to-eat (RTE) and NRTE chicken and pork fried rice, ramen, and shu

mai dumpling products, for a combined total of 36,987,575 pounds subject to recall.

Sixteen products are included in the recall expansion, all of which were produced between Oct. 21, 2024, and Feb. 26, 2026, under brand names Ajinomoto, Kroger, Ling Ling, Tai Pei, and Trader Joe’s. These products have best-by dates ranging from Feb. 28, 2026, through Aug. 19, 2027.

The products subject to recall bear establishment number P-18356, P-18356B, or P-47971 inside the USDA mark of inspection and were shipped to retail locations nationwide.

The problem was dis-

covered when the establishment notified FSIS that it received multiple consumer complaints involving glass found in product. Upon further investigation, the establishment determined that a vegetable source ingredient, specifically carrots, was the likely source of the glass contamination, which also impacted the additional products subject to this expanded recall. There have been no confirmed reports of injury due to consumption of this product. Anyone concerned about an injury should contact a healthcare provider.

FSIS is concerned that some products may be in retailers’ or consum-

ers’ freezers. Consumers who have purchased these products are urged not to consume them. These products should be thrown away or returned to the place of purchase.

FSIS routinely conducts recall effectiveness checks to verify that firms recalling products notify their customers of the recall and that steps are taken to make certain that the product is no longer available to consumers.

Consumers with questions about the recall can contact Consumer Affairs, Ajinomoto Foods North America, at (855) 742-5011 or email at customercare@ajinomoto-foods.com

Looking back to March 5, 2020

Written by Ashley
McCarty

The following information was entered into the March 5, 2020, edition of The Ledger Independent:

Ripley to hold first Appalachian festival

RIPLEY, Ohio — The first ever Appalachian Festival in Ripley is planned for May 2.

Harry Pedigo, a resident of Ripley, has been thinking about this event for a while, and is finally excited to see his vision come to fruition.

“I’ve been brainstorming this festival for about a year now, and I tell you what, it’s been kind of something that was inspired by my love of Appalachian music and the Ohio River Valley culture. I thought it could use some attention in the community. I’m really excited about this, it’s going to be a fun event,” said Pedigo.

Pedigo works as a music, social studies and writing teacher at St. Michael’s School in Ripley. At the school, Pedigo has been putting together a violin program that focuses on traditional fiddle songs and the music tradition in Appalachia — building upon that, Pedigo said he had a desire to take it to the next level, and include some traditional crafts.

“Everything is educational of course, try and highlight that portion of that aspect of our community,” he said. The festival will have a handful of educational demonstrations.

“We’re going to have some Appalachian weaving, silk making, basket weaving, we even have a group of people - the Ripley Dulcimer Club will be doing an educational demonstration which people are invited to take part in. We’ll have a traditional banjo booth, talking about the Afri-

can banjo and its role in Appalachian culture,” said Pedigo. Soap making, pottery and clogging will also be demonstrated, along with fiddle exhibits.

There will be educational speakers talking about the significance of Ripley, the Underground Railroad, and Appalachian culture.

“So we’ll have some historical speakers who will be speaking throughout the day. We will have food provided there, there will be food trucks, something that people will be encouraged to stay at for a while, have a bite to eat, listen to some stories, listen to some music and experience some authentic Appalachian crafts,” he said.

The event will conclude with a show by the St. Michael String Project, who will be playing some Appalachian and North American fiddle tunes.

Pedigo agreed that the event may benefit Ripley.

“I think Ripley is in major need of a festival that focuses on education, focuses on handing down and sharing the traditional crafts of the area and focuses on highlighting what makes Ripley unique,” said Pedigo.

For the past four years, Pedigo has been doing a spring concert for the St. Michael’s School at the Gaslight Theater. He said the 500 seats available are just no longer enough — this could mean a great turnout for the festival.

“So I’m thinking we should have a very nice turnout given the attractions, the St. Michael’s String Project and our previous concerts, having it at the Parker House will just be great for the community,” he said.

Presented by the St. Michael School and the John P. Parker House, the festival will take place on Saturday, May 2, from 4-8 p.m. at Parker Park, 300 N. Front Street in Ripley.

Peggy Frame: Working to represent the many instead of the few

Submitted by Peggy
Frame

My name is Peggy Frame, and I am running for Mason County Judge-Executive. I have served as your County Commissioner since January 1, 2023. Serving as your County Commissioner has been an honor and privilege for me. As a County Commissioner, for the past three years, I have been able to see, first hand, the changes I feel need to be made in order to continue to grow and move Mason County forward.

I grew up in Sardis, Kentucky and I have been a life long resident of Mason County. I married Tony Frame in 1970 and have lived in the Rectorville community ever since. My husband passed away in 2021 after an extended illness. I have one son, Charlie, and his wife Michell Frame. I was blessed with two grandsons, Cameron (Paige) Frame and Tyler (Madison) Frame, along with a great-granddaughter Aspy and a great grandson Camden.

Tony and I farmed for the first twenty years after we were married. Raising tobacco, hay, and corn along with running a dairy and beef operation gave me a new insight for hard work and appreciation for all those who do it.

As we continued to farm, I worked in the retail business as well, before taking an office manager position for a

local physician here in Maysville.

In the early 1990’s Tony and I got our Commercial Driver’s License and started our own trucking business, Frame Trucking Inc. The trucking industry/business was rewarding for us in many ways. We got to see what a beautiful country we live in and developed more love for it in the process. Tony served in the United States Army and already had a love for our country, but for me, to be able to see it first hand was very inspirational and rewarding to say the least.

However, no matter how far we traveled or where we went we came to realize the phrase “There’s No Place Like Home” means just that.

I am a proud member of the Plumville Church of Christ, along with the ladies group Willing Hands. I am also a Mason County Home-maker, a volunteer and a member of RSVP, along with being a board member of the Olivet Church Historical Cemetery.

I am running for Mason County Judge-Executive because I believe Mason County needs to be and can be a community where all citizens are treated equally and fairly. Where ALL voices and opinions matter, and not just a few. I will encourage respectful community feedback, good or bad,

so everyone has a voice. After all, we work for YOU the people. Not the other way around.

I will support competitor companies coming to Maysville. Some people say that’s not a good thing, but I disagree. To me competition brings businesses who will compete for our skilled work force, which means higher wages for our local workers.

I want better pay for our county employees. We are extremely fortunate to have these people serving our community. They do a tremendous job and should be rewarded as such.

I will work towards preserving and protecting our farm land. Family farms are the backbone of our community. They contain and provide lots of family heritage, blood, sweat and tears, along with many life long lessons and years of hard work. Many people tend to forget that tobacco, from family farms, helped to build Maysville. This should be preserved and protected.

I will promote private investment in tourism, in order for people to see and appreciate how beautiful Mason County truly is.

I will work towards improving our animal shelter along with the care and treatment these animals receive and deserve.

I will do a complete

financial audit of our county spending and provide YOU, the people, a detailed report on where YOUR money is being and has been spent. Not just a monthly report, but a detailed report. My goal here is to eliminate the wasteful spending and ensure YOUR money is being spent wisely. I believe in transparency and that’s what I will give to YOU, the people. Our new motto will be “DO WE WANT IT or DO WE NEED IT”.

I intend to create a more competitive business market, as previously mention, to invite new business to the area. There will no more secret deals that only benefit a FEW and not the MANY.

I will promote/support all local home grown businesses in our area.

I will DECREASE the Occupational Tax by 1/2 (.50) of a percent. This will provided additional income for YOU, the taxpayer. This has been a heavy burden on you, our taxpayers.

There will be time allotted at all fiscal court meetings for public comment, without intimidation. Your voice will be heard and is entitled to be heard.

I am asking for your vote on May 19, 2026. We need a leader whose only interest is the betterment of Mason County. Vote Peggy Frame: WORKING TO REPRESENT THE MANY.... INSTEAD OF THE FEW!

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JENNIFER DONAHUE, Publisher
jdonahue@cmpapers.com, ext. 1240
LESLIE BAKER, Sales Manager
lbaker@cmpapers.com, ext. 1119
PEYTON DUNAWAY, Editor
pdunaway@cmpapers.com, ext. 1270
DANIEL MILLER, Sports Editor
dmiller@cmpapers.com, ext. 1273
CHAD SHELTON, Production/IT
Manager
csheilton@cmpapers.com, ext. 1224
MELODY EVANS, Graphics/
Pagination Manager, melodyevans@championcarolinasc.com

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