

County Judge Executive

Shane Gabbard
County Judge Executive



Paid for by Shane Gabbard

State Representative 89th District

Robert Goforth
State Rep. 89th District



Paid for by Robert Goforth

State Representative 89th District

Kelly Smith
State Rep. 89th District



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Mayor of McKee

Michael Stidham
McKee Mayor



Paid for by Michael Stidham

Jackson County Jailer

Brian Gabbard
County Jailer



Paid for by Brian Gabbard

Meet the Candidates

Election time is here again! If you're a candidate and would like to add your name and photo to our Meet the Candidates page, please contact us at 606-287-8528, sue@thejacksoncountytimes.com, or stop by our offices at 17 Lakewood Dr. in McKee.

Senate to Send Landmark Opioid Legislation to POTUS; Includes Two Provisions Secured by Senator McConnell

WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) praised Senate passage of the landmark opioid legislation today, which contains two bills he authored and introduced. The first is the Comprehensive Addiction Recovery through Effective Employment and Reentry (CAREER) Act, which expands grants and targets funding for treatment, transitional housing, job training and placement services to help individuals in recovery find their footing and maintain sobriety. The second is the Protecting Moms and Infants Act, which will refine federal efforts to combat the effects of opioids on expecting mothers and their unborn children. This landmark opioid legislation now goes to President Trump for his signature.

"I am proud that my CAREER Act, which focuses on addiction's impact on American workers and their families, and my measure to help the increasing number of vulnerable infants born dependent on opioids are included in this comprehensive bill to fight back against the scourge of addiction through prevention, enforcement, and treatment efforts. Community, health-care, and business leaders agree that stable employment and transitional housing are vitally linked to helping individuals in recovery maintain long-term sobriety," Senator McConnell said. "A comprehensive crisis demands a comprehensive solution, and that's exactly what this landmark legislation is. First, this legislation will help cut off the opioid crisis at its roots. It will stop more drugs at the border, improve interstate monitoring, and encourage prescription reform. It will encourage recovery by authorizing more resources for state and local responders, better access to care for patients, and more support for the families and caregivers of those affected."

"The landmark bill passed by the U.S. Senate is a comprehensive step forward to help stop the tragedy of addiction," said Van Ingram, executive director of the Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy. "Kentucky families are on the front lines of the battle against opioid and substance abuse, and we are grateful for the help from the federal government to respond. There are many innovative strategies in this bill that I believe can make the difference in our fight. We appreciate Senator McConnell's tireless efforts to save families from the heartbreak of abuse. His leadership on this issue not only sent this legislation to the president's desk, but has also secured unprecedented resources that prevention advocates, treatment professionals, and law enforcement officials need to save lives."

"Kentucky's business community is acutely aware of the state's growing opioid epidemic and recognizes it is more than a public health or law enforcement issue. The crisis has become a workforce issue and employers are feeling its impact firsthand," said Dave Adkisson, President & CEO, Kentucky Chamber of Commerce. "We commend Senator McConnell for stepping up and providing leadership by introducing the CAREER Act, which provides patients in recovery the resources they need to return to healthy, productive lives and re-enter the workforce."

"We thank Senator McConnell for his vision and leadership in crafting the CAREER Act – a bill that will authorize grants for entities that help individuals in recovery from a substance use disorder transition into the workforce," said Anthony Zipple, CEO of Centerstone Kentucky. "At Centerstone, we believe that anyone who desires to work can and should do so. For individuals recovering from substance use disorders, in particular, employment can play a critical role in maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Work offers a predictable means of meeting financial obligations, a way of earning the respect of colleagues, and an opportunity to thrive in safe and sober environments. The CAREER Act will play a meaningful role in extending those in recovery a real chance to experience stability and the long-term advantages of gainful employment."

"After receiving treatment for addiction, many people struggle to find housing and employment, increasing the risk of relapse. Leader McConnell's work on the CAREER Act demonstrates an awareness of these challenges and a commitment to easing them," said Dr. Tom Ingram, CEO of Stepworks Recovery Centers. "The CAREER Act assists us at Stepworks Recovery Centers in supporting our clients beyond the first 30 days; it helps us secure them on a path to longer and more successful recovery and reintegration. Through the crafting of this legislation, and the larger package of opioid legislation passed today, the Leader has been inclusive and committed to addressing the challenges that parallel and accompany our nation's struggle with opioids and other drugs."

"Senator McConnell's leadership has been instrumental in ensuring this legislation includes recovery support services, such as his CAREER act, as well as increasing access to evidence-based addiction treatment," said Dr. Kelly Clark, President of the American Society of Addiction Medicine based in Louisville, Kentucky.

U.S. Attorney Duncan Announces Progress in Making Communities Safer through Project Safe Neighborhoods

LEXINGTON, Ky. – One year ago, the Department of Justice announced the revitalization and enhancement of Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN), which Attorney General Jeff Sessions has made the centerpiece of the Department's violent crime reduction strategy. PSN is an evidence-based program proven effective at reducing violent crime. Through PSN, a broad spectrum of stakeholders work together to identify the most pressing violent crime problems in the community and develop comprehensive solutions to address them. As part of this strategy, PSN focuses enforcement efforts on the most violent offenders and partners with locally based prevention and reentry programs for lasting reductions in crime.

"Project Safe Neighborhoods is a proven program with demonstrated results," Attorney General Sessions said. "We know that the most effective strategy to reduce violent crime is based on sound policing policies that have proven effective over many years, which includes being targeted and responsive to community needs. I have empowered our United States Attorneys to focus enforcement efforts against the most violent criminals in their districts, and directed that they work together with federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement and community partners to develop tailored solutions to the unique violent crime problems they face. Each United States Attorney has prioritized the PSN program, and I am confident that it will continue to reduce crime, save lives, and restore safety to our communities."

Throughout the past year, the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Kentucky has partnered with all levels of law enforcement, local organizations, and members of the community to reduce violent crime and make neighborhoods safer for everyone.

In January 2018, federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies created the Fayette County Violent Crime Task Force. The Task Force focuses investigative and prosecutorial resources on those individuals responsible for violent crime and significant drug trafficking in this area, particularly those who commit acts of violence while armed with a firearm and those who commit armed drug trafficking. The Agencies participating in this effort include the ATF, DEA, FBI, Lexington Police Department, the Fayette County Sheriff's Office, the Fayette County Detention Center, the Fayette County Public Schools Law Enforcement Division, the Fayette Commonwealth's Attorney's Office, and the United States Attorney's Office.

"Combatting violent crime is a cornerstone priority for the Department of Justice and our Office," said United States Attorney Robert M. Duncan, Jr. "As part of the enhanced PSN efforts, federal, state, and local law enforcement personnel are working in partnership to reduce violent crime in Lexington and throughout the Eastern District of Kentucky. These law enforcement partnerships have been effective and have resulted in innumerable violent offenders being removed from our streets, making our communities safer. While we are encouraged by the successes thus far, we recognize there is more work to be done. We are committed to continuing in this important endeavor; it truly benefits us all."

"Local, state and federal law enforcement and prosecutors are communicating and coordinating like never before in Fayette County and we are seeing some good results," stated Lou Anna Red Corn, Fayette Commonwealth's Attorney. "The partnerships fostered by the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative, greatly enhances the total community public safety philosophy of the Lexington Police Department and the Lexington Fayette Urban County Government," said Lawrence Weathers, Lexington Chief of Police. "Through partnering with the U.S. Attorney, the Commonwealth's Attorney, the Fayette County Sheriff's Department, the Fayette County Public School Police, as well as other Federal Law Enforcement agencies, concrete plans and actions have been developed that have led to effective and efficient enforcement measures which have had a direct impact on, not just violent crime, but overall crime as well."

"Working with our law enforcement partners, ATF continues to drive the reduction of violent firearm crimes through technical expertise and by focusing investigations on trigger-pullers and traffickers who pose the greatest threat to our communities," stated Stuart Lowrey, Special Agent in Charge of the ATF Louisville Division. "ATF remains committed to the continued success of Project Safe Neighborhoods and this comprehensive approach to public safety."

"The PSN program has a proven track record of bringing together law enforcement agencies to share information, share resources, and work together to apprehend and prosecute the most violent offenders," said Kathy Witt, Sheriff of Fayette County. "The revitalization and enhancement of PSN is a positive development for our community and communities across America."

"The message should be clear; the FBI is fully committed to eliminating violent crime in the Commonwealth of Kentucky," said Michael A. Christman, Acting Special Agent in Charge of Louisville Division, FBI. "As part of the Project Safe Neighborhoods, the FBI will continue to work with our law enforcement partners at the federal, state, and local levels to bring those who have not received this message to justice."

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Chris Dyal