



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Andy Beshear
GOVERNOR

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**VETO MESSAGE FROM THE
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
REGARDING SENATE BILL 65 OF THE 2024 REGULAR SESSION**

I, Andy Beshear, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, pursuant to the authority granted under section 88 of the Kentucky Constitution, do hereby veto the following:

Senate Bill 65 of the 2024 Regular Session of the General Assembly in its entirety.

Senate Bill 65 is unnecessary “stunt legislation” and is unconstitutional.

Senate Bill 65 attempts to void emergency administrative regulations that are no longer in effect, as the bill sponsor acknowledged during its passage. Instead, ordinary administrative regulations are in effect to continue to make Kentuckians healthier and allow them to return to work. Vision, hearing and dental problems have removed thousands of Kentuckians from the workforce. The ordinary regulations, like the emergency regulations before them, provide basic and inexpensive care to get Kentuckians back to work.

From January through November 2023, more than 460,000 Kentuckians used and benefited from these expanded health care services. Yet, for the second straight year through Senate Bill 65 the General Assembly shows its objection to these expanded services that are helping our fellow neighbors be part of our workforce – this time by trying to void emergency regulations that were not in effect when the sponsor filed the bill.

Senate Bill 65 also attempts to void an administrative regulation of the Board of Social Work, an executive branch board, that state law and the Kentucky Constitution mandate that the Governor make the final decision on.

Senate Bill 65 violates the separation of powers in the Kentucky Constitution. As the Supreme Court of Kentucky made clear, the adoption of regulations is within the constitutional purview of the executive branch, and a law giving the General Assembly the power to, by a bill or joint resolution, void a regulation already in effect is an unconstitutional encroachment into the power of the executive branch. Legislative Research Comm’n By and Through Prather v. Brown, 664 S.W.2d 907, 918-19 (Ky. 1984).

For these reasons, I am vetoing Senate Bill 65.

This, the 4th day of April, 2024.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andy Beshear". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Andy Beshear
Governor