August 2026

PATH EDUCATION

Kentucky's Role in the Meta lawsuit

In August 2026, Kentucky served as one of the four lead states alongside California, Colorado, and New Jersey in a monumental federal lawsuit against Meta Platforms, which concluded in a landmark $17.1 billion multistate settlement.
The litigation, co-led by Kentucky Attorney General Russell Coleman, charged Meta with deliberately designing Facebook and Instagram with addictive features that fueled a nationwide youth mental health crisis while unlawfully collecting data on children under 13 without parental consent.

Key Details of Kentucky's Involvement

- **Leadership Role:** Initially filed by a 29-state coalition in 2023, Kentucky was selected to spearhead the frontline litigation team in federal court in Oakland, California. After just one week of a trial that was projected to last up to two months, Meta agreed to a settlement encompassing 47 states.
- **Financial Payout:** Kentucky is secured to receive **$358 million** from the massive payout, making it one of the largest consumer protection settlements in state history, drawing direct comparisons to the historic Big Tobacco settlements of the 1990s.
- **Separate Privacy Settlement:** Outside of the addiction case, Meta also agreed to pay Kentucky an additional **$7.5 million** to settle a separate state investigation regarding user data shared during the 2016 Cambridge Analytica scandal.

Mandated Child-Safety Changes

Attorney General Coleman emphasized that the case "was never just about the money," as the settlement legally binds Meta to implement sweeping platform updates for users under 18 for the next decade:

- **Usage Caps:** A standard two-hour daily limit on Facebook and Instagram, utilizing mandatory "productive pauses" to stop infinite scrolling.
- **Nighttime Restrictions:** A default block on app access between midnight and 6:00 a.m..
- **School Safeguards:** Silencing all push notifications on weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. during the school year.
- **Enhanced Verification & Controls:** Stricter age verification mechanisms, a ban on plastic surgery filters, and enhanced parental dashboard transparency.

Ultimately, Kentucky's role in the Meta lawsuit represents a significant victory for consumer protection and youth safety. By helping lead the multistate litigation, Kentucky not only secured hundreds of millions of dollars for the state but also helped force meaningful, long-term changes to how Meta's platforms operate for children and teenagers. The settlement demonstrates the state's willingness to take on one of the world's largest technology companies and sends a broader message that protecting young people and their privacy must take priority over corporate profits. For Kentucky, the case stands as a landmark achievement in holding Big Tech accountable and advocating for safer digital spaces for the next generation.

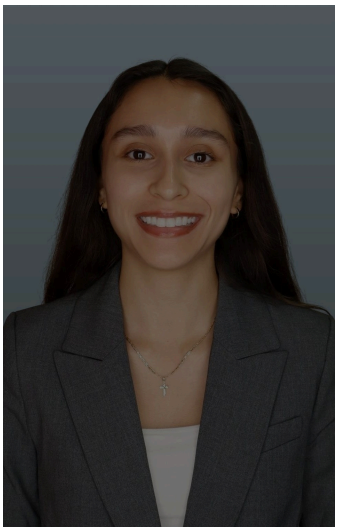
Sources: WDRB, *The Courier Journal, and The Kentucky Lantern.*

From PATH partner, the Alliance to End Human Trafficking

Last month, forty-two women religious and advocates from 17 states gathered on Capitol Hill at the invitation of the Alliance to End Human Trafficking and the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd for our third Washington, D.C., Advocacy Day. Following a policy briefing, participants met with Members of Congress and their staff to advocate for the Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Act and the Kids Online Safety Act, legislation that addresses the root causes of trafficking, strengthens protections for children, and supports survivors. These visits were an opportunity to share evidence-based recommendations and survivor-informed perspectives, and remind lawmakers that meaningful policy plays a vital role in preventing trafficking and protecting vulnerable communities.

PATH IN THE BOARDROOM

PATH welcomed 2 new board members during the August board meeting. We appreciate Rachel Ucan Ake and Cintia Vaughn and look forward to the knowledge they will bring to our organization.



Rachel is a student at the University of Louisville earning



Cintia is an educator and social work professional with more than 15 years of experience

her bachelor's in Criminal Justice and minoring in Political Science. She is currently involved with UofL's Elevator Program, working on a change project addressing labor trafficking in the community. During the fall semester, she is interning with Metro Council, and she previously interned for the state legislature. Through her education, she's become passionate about addressing human trafficking and doing what she can to make a difference.

working with children and families within the public school system. Throughout her career, she has had the opportunity to work closely with students, parents, educators, and community partners, experiences that have strengthened her commitment to supporting and advocating for children and families.

While completing her Master of Science in Social Work, she became increasingly aware of the prevalence of human trafficking, particularly its impact on children. Learning more about human trafficking in Kentucky opened her eyes to the importance of education, prevention, and community awareness and inspired her to become more involved.

As a board member of PATH Coalition of Kentucky, she looks forward to continuing to learn about human trafficking while bringing her experience in education and social work to the organization. She hopes to contribute ideas for increasing awareness in schools, educating parents and school staff, reaching Spanish-speaking families, strengthening community partnerships, and helping others recognize and appropriately report signs of trafficking and abuse.

She is grateful for the opportunity to learn, serve, and grow as an advocate alongside PATH.

PATH AND YOU

Give for Good is 10 days away on Thursday, Sept. 10. This is PATH's major fundraising day and we can't do it without the help of generous donors like you.

WHY PATH?

Human trafficking can happen anywhere—but an informed and empowered community can make a difference.

When you give to PATH Coalition of KY, you are investing in education, awareness, advocacy, and action that help communities recognize human trafficking and respond to it. Since 2014, PATH has worked to equip individuals, businesses, organizations, and communities with the knowledge they need to understand and combat sex, labor, and familial trafficking.

Your support helps make an impact.

- **Education**: In 2025 alone, PATH educated more than 1,000 people about human trafficking—and more than 3,500 people since 2021.
- **Expanding access**: PATH is launching an online learning management system to bring quality human trafficking education and training to even more people, wherever they are.
- **Building informed businesses**: PATH was named one of two official educators/trainers for the Kentucky Businesses Against Trafficking Initiative, formed by the Kentucky Secretary of State.
- **Advocacy that creates change**: PATH partnered with UNA Kentucky and other organizations to help advocate for Senate Bill 73, the Sextortion Bill, which was passed into Kentucky law during the 2025 legislative session.
- **Free community education**: PATH launched a free Human Trafficking 101 module on its website so anyone can take the first step toward becoming more informed.

Your gift helps us reach more people, provide more education, expand our resources, and empower communities to recognize and respond to human trafficking.

Together, we can build an informed community united in its resolve to end human trafficking.

Give on Thursday, Sept. 10 and help PATH educate, inform, and empower others to make a difference. Thanks to the generosity of Sr Jacqueline Aceto, PATH Board Chair, the first $300 in donations will be matched dollar for dollar.

Donate Here on Sept. 10

Know anyone who should be receiving this monthly email? Help us expand our reach! Forward this link and have them sign up today: **PATH newsletter**

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Is the PATH newsletter going to your spam folder? Be sure to add Constant Contact to your approved list of contacts so that this newsletter finds its way to your inbox on the first try.

PATH Coalition of Kentucky | Website

People Against Trafficking Humans PATH | 3228 Ingle Avenue | Louisville, KY 40206 US

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