



Kentucky Child Health & Climate Advocates
A PEDIATRICIAN ALLIANCE OF THE KENTUCKY AAP

Dear Kentucky AAP Chapter Members,

Action Alert! The Climate Advocates Task Force would like to make you aware of two environmental bills currently in the Kentucky legislature that will have a significant negative impact on child health. The KY AAP Legislative Task Force has written letters of opposition to both bills, but individual letters from pediatricians across the state will be impactful. You can look up your senator's email [here](#) by typing in your address.

- The first is [SB 178](#), and it would weaken state environmental protections to be no more stringent than federal protections and require Kentucky protective agencies to demonstrate a direct causal link between exposure and actual "manifest bodily harm" before acting to protect public health. This means waiting until children develop cancer or asthma, or other diseases, before stepping in. You can find a templated letter to [oppose SB 178 here](#).
- The second is [HB 103](#), which would make water fluoridation programs optional and subject to each county's Cabinet and Family Services to decide whether to participate in water fluoridation. This bill will be particularly harmful in rural areas where there is already unequal access to preventative dental services. This bill has passed out of the House and is awaiting committee assignment in the Senate. You can find a templated letter to [oppose HB 103 here](#).

Bernheim Forest will host its [Celebration of Play](#) event on March 21st 2026, kicking off monthly free play Saturdays at Bernheim in 2026.

February Climate Task Force meeting:

- Elisa Owen, Senior Organizer with the Kentucky Chapter of the Sierra Club, presented about the environmental impact of data centers.
- Julia Finch, Chapter Director of the Kentucky Chapter of the Sierra Club, presented a legislative update.
- See our meeting summary and link to a video recording of the data center presentation [here](#).
- Please email juliaricherson@gmail.com to be added to the task force quarterly meeting invite.

Sincerely,

Libby Mims, MD, FAAP
Julia Richerson, MD, FAAP
KCHCA Co-Chairs