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Kentucky AG wants abortions deemed non-essential during COVID-19 outbreak



Updated: 8:40 AM EDT Mar 31, 2020

Mark Vanderhoff

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several steps to shut down Kentucky's last remaining abortion clinic during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Attorney General Daniel Cameron has asked Acting Secretary of Health and Family Services Eric Friedlander to certify abortion providers are not essential, a request Friedlander and Beshear's administration have so far ignored.

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Cameron needs that certification to move forward with legal action against EMW Women's Surgical Center in Louisville, which continues to provide abortions.

If he cannot get it from the Beshear administration, state lawmakers may have a work-around.

House Bill 451, which could be called for a vote in the Senate on Wednesday, would allow the Office of the Attorney General to proceed with legal action against abortion clinics without a certification from the Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

A floor amendment that could also be called up would explicitly prohibit any abortions during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Critics have called the moves a political misuse of the coronavirus crisis.

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Boy with autism gets surprise parade after birthday party canceled due to coronavirus outbreak

Matthew Brace's mother had to cancel his birthday party because of COVID-19



Updated: 1:48 AM EDT Apr 2, 2020

David Kaplan

Reporter

BETHEL PARK, Pa. — Matthew Brace knows struggle.

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He turned 17 on Wednesday.

He lives with autism, has heart and lung issues and is as happy as any 17-year-old could be.

Matthew Brace also knows triumph.

His original birthday party was supposed to be at a Chuck E. Cheese on Wednesday. His mother, Pamela, knew that couldn't happen.

"Unfortunately, we had to cancel it," Pamela Brace said.

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"I just thought of it yesterday. I was sitting. I was working from home and he likes police cars and fire trucks, and I just figured I'd reach out to them and see if they'd do it," Pamela said.

Bethel Park police Det. Sean Gorman took that call Tuesday and immediately started making more calls.

"Everybody was totally on board," Gorman said.

Police, fire and EMS from neighboring municipalities formed a parade, roughly 30 vehicles long, to pass Matthew for his birthday.

During the parade, Matthew, who was dressed in an Easter bunny costume, waved as the cars drove by.

"Especially in these times, it was amazing. I can't thank them enough from the bottom of my heart. I'm so grateful," Pamela Brace said.

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