

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
KENTUCKY, SOUTHERN DIVISION

Lisa M. Beckman v. Frank J. Bisignano, Commissioner of Social
Security

Lisa M. Beckman v. Frank J. Bisignano, Commissioner of Social Security · No. 6:25-CV-162-HAI · Decided
April 24, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky reviewed the denial of Lisa M. Beckman’s application for supplemental security income. The court held that the Administrative Law Judge properly evaluated the medical opinions and that the residual functional capacity finding was supported by substantial evidence. The court denied Beckman’s request for remand and directed entry of judgment for the Commissioner of Social Security.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky, Southern Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Hanly A. Ingram
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky, Southern Division
DECIDED	April 24, 2026
DOCKET	6:25-CV-162-HAI
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Judicial review of the Commissioner of Social Security's denial of supplemental security income benefits under 42 U.S.C. §§ 405(g) and 1383(c).
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court reviews whether the ALJ applied the correct legal standards and whether the decision is supported by substantial evidence. The court may not conduct de novo review, resolve evidentiary conflicts, or make credibility determinations. An ALJ's decision must be affirmed if supported by substantial evidence, even when substantial evidence also supports a contrary conclusion.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished district court opinion

PARTIES

Lisa M. Beckman v. Frank J. Bisignano, Commissioner of Social Security

TOPICS

judicial review of agency action

agency adjudication

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disability definition

PRACTICE AREAS

Social Security

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QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the ALJ properly evaluated the supportability and consistency of Nurse Partin's functional opinion under the applicable medical-opinion regulations.
2. Whether substantial evidence supported the ALJ's residual functional capacity finding limiting Beckman to light work rather than sedentary work.
3. Whether the ALJ's denial of supplemental security income should be remanded for further proceedings.

HOLDINGS

1. The ALJ adequately addressed the supportability and consistency factors and reasonably found Nurse Partin's functional opinion unpersuasive.
2. Substantial evidence supported the ALJ's finding that Beckman could perform light work with specified postural and environmental restrictions; the record did not require a limitation to sedentary work.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"The undersigned is not persuaded by Nurse Partin's opinion as it is not adequately supported and appears to rely primarily on the claimant's self-reported symptoms." (D.E. 9-1 at 34-35)

"Further, the degree of limitation opined is not consistent with the evidence of record, including, for example, treatment records from all other providers who do not indicate any abnormalities in the claimant's gait or that she ambulates with an assistive device." (D.E. 9-1 at 34-35)

"The record is not so one-sided that it demands a finding that Beckman is limited to, at most, sedentary work." (D.E. 9-1 at 39-40)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Beckman alleged disability based on physical and mental impairments, including obesity, asthma, degenerative disc and joint disease, borderline intellectual functioning, ADHD, and depressive disorder. The ALJ found that she had no past relevant work but retained the residual functional capacity for light work with postural and environmental restrictions. Beckman relied principally on a functional-capacity form completed by Nurse Michael Partin, who opined that she had substantially greater limitations and needed position changes, unscheduled breaks, and an assistive device. The administrative record also included a consultative examination documenting normal gait, full strength, intact sensation, and ambulation without an assistive device.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Beckman applied for supplemental security income, alleging disability beginning December 12, 2022. The Social Security Administration denied the claim initially and on reconsideration. After a July 11, 2024 hearing, the ALJ found Beckman not disabled through July 22, 2024, and the Appeals Council denied review on July 7, 2025. Beckman sought judicial review, and the parties consented to magistrate-judge jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 636(c) and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 73. The district court denied remand and ordered judgment for the Commissioner.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- *Cruse v. Commissioner of Social Security*, 502 F.3d 532, 539 (6th Cir. 2007)
- *Rogers v. Commissioner of Social Security*, 486 F.3d 234, 241 (6th Cir. 2007)
- *Cutlip v. Secretary of Health & Human Services*, 25 F.3d 284, 286 (6th Cir. 1994)
- *Mullen v. Bowen*, 800 F.2d 535, 545 (6th Cir. 1986) (en banc)
- *Kirk v. Secretary of Health & Human Services*, 667 F.2d 524, 535 (6th Cir. 1981), cert. denied, 461 U.S. 957 (1983)
- *Bradley v. Secretary of Health & Human Services*, 862 F.2d 1224, 1228 (6th Cir. 1988)
- *Her v. Commissioner of Social Security*, 203 F.3d 388, 389-90 (6th Cir. 1999)
- *Casey v. Secretary of Health & Human Services*, 987 F.2d 1230, 1233 (6th Cir. 1993)
- *Kinsella v. Schweiker*, 708 F.2d 1058, 1059 (6th Cir. 1983)
- *Jones v. Commissioner of Social Security*, 336 F.3d 469, 474 (6th Cir. 2003)
- *United States v. Kerns*, 9 F.4th 342, 351 (6th Cir. 2021)
- *Strickland v. City of Detroit*, 995 F.3d 495, 511 (6th Cir. 2021)
- *Hernandez v. Commissioner of Social Security*, 644 F. App'x 468, 474 (6th Cir. 2016)
- *Mason v. Shalala*, 994 F.2d 1058, 1065 (3d Cir. 1993)
- *Ellars v. Commissioner of Social Security*, 647 F. App'x 563, 566-67 (6th Cir. 2016)
- *Teague v. Astrue*, 638 F.3d 611, 616 (8th Cir. 2011)
- *Kepke v. Commissioner of Social Security*, 636 F. App'x 625, 630 (6th Cir. 2016)
- *Smith v. Commissioner of Social Security*, No. 13-12759, 2015 WL 899207, at *14-15 (E.D. Mich. Mar. 3, 2015)
- *Ashley v. Commissioner of Social Security*, No. 1:12-cv-1287, 2014 WL 1052357, at *8 n.6 (W.D. Mich. Mar. 19, 2014)

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