KENTUCKY YMCA YOUTH ASSOCIATION **KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSEMBLY** **Legislative Bill**	**Red | Bill # SB 41** **Referred to Committee: Senate 3**
Authors: Lauryn Cook, Izzy Hunt, Jadiss Metcalfe, Kelsey Dinning	**Action on the Bill**
School: Drakes Creek Middle School	**House** ____ ☐ Passed ____ ☐ Defeated **Senate** ____ ☐ Passed ____ ☐ Defeated
City: Bowling Green	

An Act to Legislate the Age at Which Children May Be Left Alone

Be it enacted by the Youth Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky

Section 1: This bill will help protect children from the dangers of being left alone. The state of Kentucky currently does not have any laws on the age in which it is legal to leave children at home alone. Therefore, it is even legal to leave children at home overnight, and for long extended time periods leaving them exposed to many dangers. Our bill places the following guidelines.
7 and under - Should not be left alone for any period of time.
8 to 10 years - Should not be left alone for more than 3 hours and only during daylight hours and early evening hours (before 8:00pm).
11-12 years - May be left alone for up to 6 hours, but not after 11:00pm. 13-14 years - May be left unsupervised, but not overnight.

Section 2: For the purposes of this bill, overnight is defined as the hours from 11:00 pm and 6:00 am.

Section 3: This bill will be enforced the same way that any child neglect or child abuse case is currently enforced. First, the general public (all citizens) are responsible to let the police know if they suspect a child is being left alone. Next, the police will be responsible to investigate reported cases and determine if suspicions were confirmed. If the children are being left alone, then social services will work with the family and the court system to investigate or correct the problem, or if need be, remove the child from the home.

Section 4: On the first offense, the parent would have to pay a $250 fine. After they commit the second offense, the fine will be doubled ($500), and two days in jail could be sentenced. After the third offense, the fine will be $1,000 and offenders will spend four days in jail. If they leave a child at home alone again, the child will be removed from the home by Social Services and placed in either a relatives' home, or in foster care.

Section 5: This bill will be enacted on January 1, 2014.