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KENTUCKY YMCA YOUTH ASSOCIATION KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSEMBLY Legislative Bill

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Referred to Committee: Senate 4

Authors: Elaina Porter, Mackenzie Wathen, Mollee Shelton, Brennan Franklin	Action on the Bill	
School: Daviess Co. MS	House	Senate
	🗆 Passed	Passed
City: Owensboro	Defeated	Defeated

An act to prevent drug use by teenagers by implementing drug testing and anti-drug programs in middle and high schools.

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

Section 1: Abuse of prescription and over the counter(OTC) drugs is the second highest cause of death with 40,000 people dying annually. This is second only to motor vehicle fatalities. The abuse of prescription and over the counter drugs is one of the nation's, and Kentucky's fastest growing drug problems. If drug testing is implemented, it may save lives.

Section 2: Drug testing in middle and high schools should be implemented randomly to students each month. This will achieve three public health goals. 1. It helps deter teens from ever using drugs. 2. It can help us identify who has just recently started using drugs so parents/guardians can be alerted. This will allow for early intervention so the student can get the help they need. 3. It can help the students that depend on drugs so that they can attend drug treatments and end their dangerous addiction.

Section 3: Drug testing is not meant to be a punishment, but as a first step in treatment. Along with testing, prevention posters will be hung in every Kentucky school. They will educate students on what drugs do to the body and displaying before and after pictures of drug abusers, and of students who died from accidental overdosing of prescription or OTC drugs.

Section 4: The type of drug test to be administered is a Hair Follicle drug screen. Hair testing for drug abuse is the only drug testing method available that provides a 90-day (3 month) drug use history. Washing the hair will NOT dilute the sample. This is also considered a less embarrassing method of drug testing. If a student were to test positive, there will be further consequences for repeat offenders plus assistance in beating the addiction. Contact will be made with the parents/guardians to ensure that the legal drugs taken are not being abused and is actually being used for sickness or medical purposes. This will cost the school approximately \$90 per test. This will still be a small amount, since only a handful of students will be tested. Saving lives does not have a price tag.

Section 5: Before any student can be tested, the school must first obtain parental consent. If the parent does not give permission, no test will be given to that student.