KENTUCKY YMCA YOUTH ASSOCIATION

KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSEMBLY
Premiere Bill

Red | Bill # P22

Referred to Committee:
Senate 5

Authors: Aneliese Rodriguez, Emily Hardesty

School: Interact Club of Boone Co.

City: Union

Action on the Bill

House	Senate
____ ☐ Passed	____ ☐ Passed
____ ☐ Defeated	____ ☐ Defeated

An act to distribute state general funds equally across Kentucky for mental health treatment, addiction treatment and community care support.

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

Section 1: State General Funds for mental health treatment, addiction treatment, and community care support are not being given out evenly to the different regions of Kentucky. This act requires those funds to be divided evenly, per capita (for each person) across the state. For example, Northern Kentucky has 10.16% of Kentucky's population but receives only 8.16% of these funds. Northern Kentucky received under $2.4 million dollars of these funds in 2013. This is approximately $5.00 less per person than any other region in Kentucky. Northern Kentucky urgently needs this money to fight a serious heroin epidemic. If this epidemic spreads, in a similar force, to other areas of Kentucky, other regions would also benefit from this act, by having an equal share of this funding.

Section 2: Northern Kentucky is the epicenter of a growing heroin epidemic in the state. Kentucky ranks third in the nation for overdose deaths. Over 1000 people died from drug overdoses in Kentucky in 2013, and nearly half of those deaths were in Northern Kentucky. Fifty-four percent (54%) of those Northern Kentucky deaths were heroin-related, as compared to 32% state-wide. The number of overdose cases at Northern Kentucky hospitals increased by over 77% in 2012 and, in 2013, heroin cases nearly doubled those in 2012.

Section 3: The heroin epidemic is straining medical, judicial and law enforcement budgets. Heroin is highly addictive and effects people of all ages, rich and poor. Northern Kentucky can only afford to give treatment to 25% of substance abusers who are looking for help. If Northern Kentucky does not slow down this epidemic, it may spread like a wildfire all over the state, effecting Kentucky's economy and destroying many more lives.

Section 4: This act requires existing funds to be redistributed equally at no extra cost to taxpayers.

Section 5: This act will go into effect ninety (90) days following passage.

Definition: Per capita – for each person. This means that the fund distribution will be based on the population in a region. From region to region, the same amount of money per person will be provided.