

 <b>KENTUCKY YMCA YOUTH ASSOCIATION</b> <b>KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSEMBLY</b> <b>Legislative Bill</b>	<b>Blue   Bill # 34</b>						
	<b>Referred to Committee:</b> <b>Senate 5</b>						
<b>Authors:</b> Evan Murray, Evan Ruff, Matthew Hershberger, Alex Parham	<b>Action on the Bill</b>  <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;"><b>House</b></td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;"><b>Senate</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed</td> <td style="text-align: center;">___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">___ <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated</td> <td style="text-align: center;">___ <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated</td> </tr> </table>	<b>House</b>	<b>Senate</b>	___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed	___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed	___ <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated	___ <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated
<b>House</b>		<b>Senate</b>					
___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed		___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed					
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<b>School:</b> Martha Layne Collins HS							
<b>City:</b> Shelbyville							

1 An act to require that children born with Fetal Alcohol Effects (FAE) and/or Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) will  
2 be considered a case of second degree criminal abuse.  
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4 **Be it enacted by the Youth Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky**  
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6 Section 1: Fetal Alcohol Syndrome is a disease caused by excessive amounts of alcohol consumed by a  
7 mother during pregnancy. This will cause mental retardation and malfunction of physical growth. People with  
8 FAS can have problems with learning, memory, attention span, communication, vision, or hearing. It is very  
9 detrimental to a child's health and well-being, and is a very serious issue as it affects people all around you,  
10 even if you don't realize it.

11 Section 2: Nearly 40,000 infants are born every year with Fetal Alcohol Effects; and over half of pregnant  
12 women between 18-34 years of age confirm they use alcohol within the last month of pregnancy. It is  
13 estimated that 1 to 2 babies born in the U.S. per 1000 births have FAS. This is a serious issue, as the effects  
14 of the alcohol on the child when born include stunted growth, facial distortion, learning disabilities, and many  
15 other physical and mental problems. By making these actions a criminal abuse, pregnant women will be more  
16 likely to avoid making these harmful decisions, which can essentially ruin a child's life.

17 Section 3: In Kentucky, the alcohol endangerment of a child prior to birth is a Class B misdemeanor for a first  
18 offense, and a Class A misdemeanor for every offense after. This act would make this crime a case of  
19 second degree criminal abuse, which would be considered a Class D felony, which is punishable by one to five  
20 years in prison, and a fine of \$1,000 to \$10,000. This is compared to a year or less of jail time and a small  
21 fine of \$250 for a Class B misdemeanor.

22 Section 4: This bill will take effect on January 1, 2015.  
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