KENTUCKY YMCA YOUTH ASSOCIATION

KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSEMBLY
Bluegrass Bill

Blue | BG 37

Referred to Committee:
Senate 2

Authors: Sarah Ali, Katherin DeBoor, Hunter Johnson

School: Tates Creek

City: Lexington

Action on the Bill

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

An act to require pharmaceutical companies to cover the cost of current cancer treatments and procedures for low-income families

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

Section 1: The cost of chemotherapy can be as high as $30,000. Initial treatments are usually around $7,000. On average, a low income family makes only $45,000 a year. After paying income tax, low income families only make around $34,500. That is 75% of their year income. Cancer kills more people in Kentucky then in any other state, taking more than 10,000 lives a year. Lung cancer patients in Kentucky have over a 50% mortality rate.

Section 2: According to BBC news, pharmaceutical companies can have profits in the billions. For example, Johnson & Johnson made a profit of 13.8 billion dollars in 2013. That same year, The Pfizer Company made 22 billion dollars. For The Pfizer Company, the $30,000 chemotherapy treatment is only .0001% of their yearly profits.

Section 3: There would be no cost for Kentucky tax payers.

Section 4: The FDA would be in charge of enforcing this bill. If the companies fail to comply with giving the discount to qualifying families, then a court date would be set. If in court the company can validate their reason for not giving the discount, then they will only have to pay their original dues. However, if the court finds their reason invalid, they will have to pay the family 30% of the chemotherapy costs.

Section 5: This law will go into effect on January 1, 2109.