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KENTUCKY YMCA YOUTH ASSOCIATION KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSEMBLY **Bluegrass Bill**

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Authors: Ansley Golightly, Meghan Adams, Chesney Flynn, Noah Ellis	Action on the Bill	
School: McCracken Co. HS	House	Senate

City: Paducah

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

An act to require mental screening for Kentucky middle school and high school students

Section 1: Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death among Kentucky youth and the current rate of suicide attempts has gone up from 17.0 in 2013 to 17.7 in 2015 according to the Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

Section 2: If enacted, this bill will make it mandatory for each student 6th through 12th Grade to have a comprehensive mental screening for signs of depression and for mental health problems. They will have to take this test before they can enter a state educational institution in the new academic year.

Section 3: If a party has religious and/or ethical objections to taking the test, they may submit a request to opt-out to their local school board. If a mental health issue is discovered by going through the mental screening, the family of the child may submit a written financial aid request to the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services. Funds for financial aid will come from the Kentucky Lottery Fund and the sizes of the grants will be based off a set scale based off of the family's income and on how expensive the treatment is.

Section 4: If passed, this bill will take effect the school year immediately following its passage.