KENTUCKY YMCA YOUTH ASSOCIATION **KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSEMBLY** **Commonwealth Bill**	**Red | CW 7** **Referred to Committee: House 1**
Authors: Maggie Jones, Justin Benson, Hope Forseth, Chad Phillips	**Action on the Bill**
School: East Oldham MS	House: ____ ☐ Passed ____ ☐ Defeated Senate: ____ ☐ Passed ____ ☐ Defeated
City: Crestwood	

An act to require all non-working welfare participants to participate in job training or community service.

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

Section 1: Nearly 25% of Kentucky is on some form of welfare. Whether it be housing, child nutrition, or child care, a quarter of our state is receiving government help. A large percent of these people have committed fraud,. meaning that they applied and collected welfare when they don't need it. Some people also use welfare checks as an alternative to a working income. Roughly 198 cases of fraud were found this past year.

Section 2: Our proposal is to require welfare participants who are not working to complete some form of job training or community service to receive their welfare checks. They can complete those services by doing either labor or desk work. To gain hours, participants can join a trainer program and/or complete 20 hours of volunteer work each week. Due to the ADA, Americans with Disabilities Act, Americans that are special needs or disabled are not required to do physical work to get service hours but can rather do desk work and are still allowed accommodations such as shorter hours. Pregnant women or adults with dependents are also given certain amendments to the policies due to their situations. Children will be exempt from the bill.

Section 3: This will benefit Kentucky by helping businesses and communities save money by providing volunteers to do services. The results of this bill, include less money being wasted on fraud, will help pay for the costs associated with it. We would use workers to supervise the volunteers and ensure they are working diligently. To provide incentive to the workers we would pay them an extra $1.00 an hour per worker.

Section 4: We would get this money from our state budget. This bill will definitely pay off due to cuts on money spent on welfare in KY.

Section 5: If anyone does not complete their service hours or job training, then they don't receive their welfare checks for that month. If they continue to not complete their hours then their welfare checks are suspended for three months. If caught for a third time then they cannot receive anymore welfare checks and will be unable to apply for more. Individuals will be able to try their punishments in court if they believe they ha good reason for not completing their hours.

Section 6: This law wold go into affect June 1st 2017.