



The Independent Voice for Kentucky's Children

KENTUCKY
YOUTH
ADVOCATES

For Immediate Release

March 4, 2010

Contact:

Whitney Neal

502-895-8167 x 121

wneal@kyyouth.org

**Statement by Terry Brooks, Executive Director,
Kentucky Youth Advocates on HB 301**

Today House members showed a real commitment to the youth of Kentucky and to the future of our Commonwealth by voting to raise the mandatory age of school attendance to 18. In these tough economic times, we need to prioritize policies that position our state to move ahead and this bill does exactly that. Increasing the legal dropout age is a small investment that will pay big dividends for Kentucky in the form of increased earnings, economic growth and cost avoidance.

Kentucky's current law allowing students to leave high school at the age of 16 was put into place more than 100 years ago, before a high school diploma was required for most mainstream jobs. We believe that 21st century kids need 21st century policies. We know the Senate shares the House's commitment to youth and hope they will quickly join them in approving HB 301.

###

Kentucky Youth Advocates is a non-partisan, non-profit, children's advocacy organization. KYA represents a voice for Kentucky's most precious asset – its youth. We believe that Kentucky's youth deserve the opportunities and resources necessary to ensure their productive development and health.