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Senate Proposes Zero-Sum Game with Kentucky Losing

**Statement by Terry Brooks,
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Contrary to the thinking that is guiding the Senate's budget proposal, being a low-cost state for business will not make Kentucky the envy of the nation and spur economic development. Rather, the Senate's focus on cost-cutting may irreversibly harm the quality of the one input that is truly attractive to companies looking to do business in Kentucky – human capital.

It is common knowledge in the business world that if you drive costs down too far you are at risk of diminishing the quality of your product and ultimately losing customers. It is no less true for the state of Kentucky. In this case, the residents of Kentucky are our product and without the proper investment in their education and well-being we will never be able to compete for the jobs that will move our state forward in the future. The knowledge-based jobs that are so critical in the 21st Century will go to surrounding states that had the courage to maintain investments in education, workforce development, and support for families. Those states – able to envision the future and identify today's needs to get to that prosperous future - will be the ones competing for jobs when the recession ends.

The only way to position Kentucky for growth when this recession ends is to maintain critical investments in the residents of our state that will lead to stronger families, healthier communities and a competitive workforce.

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Kentucky Youth Advocates is the home of Kentucky's Tax and Budget Initiative, a member of the nationwide State Fiscal Analysis Initiative.