



*The Independent Voice for Kentucky's Children*

KENTUCKY  
YOUTH  
ADVOCATES

For Immediate Release  
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## MEDIA RELEASE

LOUISVILLE, KY – You wouldn't think being poor in Kentucky is expensive, but that's exactly what a report to be released by The Brookings Institution on June 19<sup>th</sup> finds. Funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, "The High Price of Being Poor in Kentucky" finds that lower-income Kentuckians pay some of the highest prices in the state for basic goods and services, hindering their ability to get ahead and adding up to hundreds, sometimes thousands, of dollars in extra costs every year.

In response to these findings, we will be announcing on June 19<sup>th</sup> the formation of the Kentucky High Cost Commission—the first of its kind in the country. This commission—a bipartisan group of political, business, and community leaders—will work on ways to implement the report's three-pronged strategy of:

- 1) lowering the costs of doing business in lower-income markets,
- 2) curbing unscrupulous business practices, and
- 3) expanding financial education and advising throughout the state.

A copy of the report is attached. It is embargoed until 12:01am on June 19<sup>th</sup>. The report is scheduled to be released to the public at a 10am press conference in the Capitol Rotunda, where a brief summary of the report will be provided, along with comments from several members of the Kentucky High Cost Commission.

Two of the authors of the report are available for interviews prior to the release. Matt Fellowes, a fellow at The Brookings Institution, can be reached at [mfellowes@brookings.edu](mailto:mfellowes@brookings.edu) or 202-797-6140. Terry Brooks, the executive director of Kentucky Youth Advocates, can be reached at [tbrooks@kyyouth.org](mailto:tbrooks@kyyouth.org) or 502-895-8167 (ext. 113).

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