



The Independent Voice for Kentucky's Children

KENTUCKY  
YOUTH  
ADVOCATES

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## **Health Insurance Starts Working Better for Kentucky's Children and Families**

Statement by Kentucky Youth Advocates on  
the Effective Provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

**Jeffersontown, KY** – In a statement released today, Lacey McNary, Deputy Director of Kentucky Youth Advocates, states that, “Many of Kentucky’s children and families will have a better shot at healthcare, starting September 23, 2010. The federal health care law was enacted just six months ago, but tomorrow, a set of important new protections will take effect, designed to curb the worst excesses of the insurance industry. Children with pre-existing conditions will no longer be denied coverage; Parents will have the choice to keep their children who are in college or who are trying to find employment on the family health insurance plans through age 26; And, new insurance plans will be required to provide free preventive care, so that insurance can become less about fixing problems and more about keeping kids and families healthy.”

“The question at hand,” Terry Brooks, Executive Director of Kentucky Youth Advocates asserts “is whether Kentucky will take the necessary steps forward that this Act provides. Will the interest of children battling autism, cancer and asthma be honored or will the bottom line for insurance companies take precedence?”

Several large insurance companies’ are attempting to eliminate child-only policies on the individual market to avoid having to offer coverage to children with pre-existing conditions. McNary states, “Those decisions may affect only a few Kentucky families but the impact will be profound. Families trying to buy health insurance in a responsible manner will have the door slammed. Instead of curbing opportunities, insurers need to be offering solutions.”

“In some ways, the decision making we already see at play confirms the worst fears of Kentucky’s working parents, that their children with chronic conditions will continue to suffer while insurance companies count their dividends,” Brooks adds.

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***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.*