



Press Release
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Kentucky's Families and Children will Benefit from Extension of Jobless Aid

**Statement by Terry Brooks
Executive Director, Kentucky Youth Advocates**

Kentuckians experiencing long-term unemployment will receive much needed help after Congress showed great leadership by moving to add extra weeks of jobless benefits, originally provided by the Recovery Act. This is a success for families struggling with joblessness and a success for the Commonwealth as families continue to need support to make ends meet while the economy slowly recovers.

The effort will help maintain the slow movement towards economic recovery essential for full retreat from the recession. Without the extension of these benefits families would have been left without support when unemployment remains high, revenue receipts remain low, and the state is turning to severe budget cuts to make ends meet.

The extension of jobless aid is a move in the right direction, but the recession is still an immediate concern for many Kentuckians. State agencies are announcing furloughs and severe budget cuts will most likely mean the suspension of some crucial services and laying off more teachers, social workers, and other state employees at a time when many agencies are just hanging on. Budget cuts are preventing a full economic recovery. By extending assistance to Kentucky, which will run out by the end of the 2010, Congress can help Kentucky balance its budget with fewer, detrimental spending cuts.

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[Kentucky Youth Advocates](http://www.kyyouth.org) is home to the Kentucky Tax and Budget Initiative. We work to promote an adequate, sustainable and transparent budget upon which we can build strong public structures and the long-term economic vitality of the Commonwealth. Funding is provided by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Stoneman Family Foundation.