

# HOUSE BILL 1: WAR ON THE POOR

**House Bill 1 (HB 1) would make it harder for Kentuckians to get help for food, doctor's appointments, child care, and more - right when we need it the most.** The bill is a War on the Poor, creating more obstacles for Kentuckians who are already struggling to make ends meet.

## HB 1 would hurt Kentuckians

- **Tells poor Kentuckians what groceries to buy.**  
Data shows that most of us eat and drink the same things, whether or not we receive SNAP.
- **Cuts food assistance to homes with children.**  
Family members and other adults helping raise kids would lose SNAP if they can't meet work requirements, regardless of barriers they may face. When benefits are taken from someone in a household, it reduces the food budget for all.
- **Makes it harder for Kentucky families without bank accounts** to withdraw cash benefits to pay for rent, utilities, babysitting, and other necessities. Twelve percent of Kentuckians making less than \$30,000 per year are unbanked.
- **Establishes harsh penalties**, including a lifetime ban from Medicaid if someone incarcerated for a drug-related felony doesn't enroll in a treatment program within 90 days of release.
- **Assumes many people misuse benefits.** Data shows a fraud rate of only one percent in Kentucky.
- **Could bring back work requirements** for people covered by Medicaid, even though these have been struck down in federal court.

While HB 1 would temporarily expand Medicaid to Kentuckians earning up to 200% of the federal poverty level (\$25,520 for an individual), it would also expose them to more out of pocket expenses like deductibles and copayments.

And it bypasses federal funding, shifting more cost to the state and making the expansion vulnerable.



## Cutting services, adding costs

- **Makes it difficult** for Kentuckians to receive assistance by requiring more paperwork and red tape.
- **Requires grocery stores** to use expensive new tracking requirements.
- **Increases the state budget** by creating the need for more administration.
- **If passed, the bill would likely violate** federal rules and laws and be subject to a lawsuit.

*"I was hopeful that our elected officials would stand up for Kentuckians who, at one time or another, need the public safety net. Imagine my surprise when I found out that last year's HB 3 is this year's HB 1. The War on the Poor is still with us and like so many wars, innocents are being harmed."*

– Sister Kathy, Floyd County



## WE ARE KENTUCKIANS

Here in Kentucky, we do better together. If a friend or neighbor is hungry, we feed them. When they need help, we lend a hand.

House Bill 1 falls far short of those values. Taking away food and health care doesn't help people find good jobs – it only makes them hungry and less healthy.

Kentuckians need our elected leaders to find real solutions to ensure that all working people earn a good living and to strengthen our safety net for when we fall on hard times.

**Vote no on HB 1.**



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(606) 878-2161



P.O. Box 1450, London, KY 40743



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