

[GOVERNOR MATT BEVIN]

WOW.

IT IS GOOD TO BE HERE IN SPEAKER  
HOOVER'S HOUSE.

IN THE HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE.

IS IT NOT?

IT REALLY IS.

IT REALLY IS.

PLEASE HAVE A SEAT.

I -- AS IS OFTEN THE CASE, I  
ACTUALLY DO HAVE NOTES THIS TIME  
AND I MIGHT EVEN LOOK AT THEM.

I DON'T KNOW.

I'M NOT SURE ENTIRELY WHAT WILL  
HAPPEN.

WE WERE BLESSED TO BE ABLE TO  
HEAR WHAT YOU JUST HEARD, THAT  
INVOCATION, AS WE STOOD OUTSIDE  
THOSE DOORS, AND YOU TALK ABOUT  
JUST WANTING TO GO HOME.

I DON'T KNOW THAT I CAN ADD  
ANYTHING TO THAT.

WE ARE BLESSED INDEED TO BE  
KENTUCKIANS.

WE ARE BLESSED INDEED TO BE  
AMERICANS.

WE ARE BLESSED INDEED BY THE  
HERITAGE OF THIS GREAT NATION.

WE TRULY ARE.

AND I TELL YOU IF YOU READ  
THE PREAMBLE, IF YOU DON'T  
BELIEVE THE THINGS THAT WE  
JUST HEARD IN THAT  
INVOCATION ARE INDEED THE VERY  
FOUNDATIONS OF NOT ONLY THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
BUT OF OUR NATION,  
READ THE PREAMBLE TO KENTUCKY'S  
CONSTITUTION AND YOU WILL  
UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE CORE  
FOUNDATIONAL UNDERPINNINGS TO  
WHAT WE VALUE HERE IN KENTUCKY.  
I'M GRATEFUL TO EACH AND EVERY  
ONE OF YOU IN THIS CHAMBER,  
THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE MEMBERS OF  
THE HOUSE AND OF THE SENATE, TO  
OUR JUDICIARY, CERTAINLY TO  
SPEAKER HOOVER AND PRESIDENT  
STIVERS, THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR  
THE INVITATION TO COME IN AND  
ADDRESS YOUR RESPECTIVE  
CAUCUSES, TO ALL OF THOSE WHO  
HAVE GATHERED HERE.  
MY WIFE IS UNABLE TO BE HERE,  
AND I CERTAINLY HAVE A DEBT OF  
GRATITUDE TO HER.  
SHE IS OUT OF TOWN  
AT A FUNERAL THIS  
EVENING.  
BUT I'LL TELL YOU WHAT.

IT IS NOT POSSIBLE THAT I COULD  
SERVE IN THE CAPACITY THAT I DO  
WITHOUT SUCH AN AMAZING WOMAN,  
THE MOTHER OF OUR NINE CHILDREN  
IN AN INCREDIBLE HELP TO ME AND  
A GUIDE TO ME AN ENCOURAGER TO  
ME, THE FIRST LADY OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH.

WE ARE BLESSED INDEED.

I THANK YOU ALL FOR BEING HERE.

[ APPLAUSE ]

I HAVE SO MANY NOTES HERE I  
DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO START  
HERE.

I WILL SAY THIS.

BEFORE I BEGIN, I WANT TO DRAW  
YOUR ATTENTION TO SOMETHING.

LAST YEAR, IF YOU REMEMBER, WE  
BEGAN THIS SESSION WITH A  
DISCUSSION ABOUT THE OVERLOOK  
ABOVE THE CAPITAL, AND IT  
MENTIONED USING IT SOMEWHAT AS  
AN ANALOGY FOR THE FACT THAT WE  
ARE IN FACT A STATE THAT HAS NOT  
ALWAYS LIVED UP TO ITS BEST  
SELF, THAT WE'VE NOT ALWAYS BEEN  
THE BEST VERSION OF OURSELVES,  
THAT WE COULD BE.

AND IF YOU REMEMBER, I

CHALLENGED YOU ALL TO BE THE  
BEST VERSION OF YOURSELVES, TO  
HELP KENTUCKY TO BECOME THE BEST  
VERSION OF ITSELF POSSIBLE.

IN THE STATE OF THE COMMONWEALTH  
ADDRESS IT IS MY CONSTITUTIONAL  
RESPONSIBILITY TO REPORT TO THE  
PEOPLE, TO THESE CHAMBERS AND TO  
THOSE ASSEMBLED AND TO THOSE  
WATCHING ON WHAT IS THE STATE OF  
COMMONWEALTH.

IT IS A RESPONSIBILITY.

WE COULD GET WAY DOWN IN THE  
WEEDS AND TALK ABOUT POLICY AND  
IDEOLOGY.

WE'RE NOT GOING TO DO THAT.

WE MAY TOUCH ON A FEW THINGS.

BUT THERE ARE AT A TIME LIKE  
THIS OPPORTUNITIES TO BOTH LOOK  
BACK ON THE YEAR THAT HAS  
TRANSPIRED AND TO LOOK AHEAD AT  
WHAT WILL COME BEFORE US.

AND I WILL SAY THIS, AS I TALK  
ABOUT THIS FIRST YEAR IN  
HINDSIGHT, IT HAS BEEN A TRUE  
JOY TO ME AND A PLEASURE TO ME  
TO BE JOINED AT THE HIP  
LITERALLY AND SOMETIMES ALMOST,  
IT SEEMS, LITERALLY BUT CERTAINLY

FIGURATIVELY WITH OUR LIEUTENANT  
GOVERNOR JENEAN HAMPTON WHO, I  
TRULY...

[ APPLAUSE ]

I WILL TELL YOU THIS.

I LOVE KENTUCKY, AND THIS WOMAN  
LOVES KENTUCKY EVERY BIT AS MUCH  
AS I DO.

WE HAVE A LOT OF FUN RUNNING  
AROUND THE COMMONWEALTH AND  
REPRESENTING THE GREATNESS OF  
THIS STATE.

I DO WANT TO SAY ONE THING.

I WANT TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO  
A WEBSITE.

FOR THOSE OF YOU THAT ARE  
WATCHING OR TAKING NOTES IN ANY  
WAY, SHAPE OR FORM, IF YOU WANT  
TO GET MORE OF THE STATISTICS OF  
THINGS THAT HAVE HAPPENED -- I'M  
NOT GOING TO RUN THROUGH  
EVERYTHING THAT HAS HAPPENED IN  
THE LAST YEAR BUT THESE BODIES  
DID SOME AMAZING WORK LAST YEAR.

BUT YOU CAN GO TO  
[BEVINANNUALREPORT.COM](http://BEVINANNUALREPORT.COM).

THOSE THREE WORDS ALL STRUNG  
TOGETHER, NO SPACES.

[BEVINANNUALREPORT.COM](http://BEVINANNUALREPORT.COM).

TAKE A LOOK AT THE THINGS THAT  
HAVE HAPPENED, AND WE WILL  
UPDATE THAT AND IT WILL CONTINUE  
TO BE UPDATED AS WE MOVE  
FORWARD.

THERE ARE, AS I THINK ABOUT LAST  
YEAR, TOO, AT THIS TIME I BEGAN  
MY PRESENTATION LAST YEAR WITH A... DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN WE  
USED TO HAVE WINTER?  
DO YOU REMEMBER THAT?

[ LAUGHTER ]

THERE WAS, UH, WE WERE THANKING THE FOLKS WHO  
HAD BEEN OUT PLOWING THE ROADS  
AND HAD SHOWN IN KENTUCKY WHAT  
IT WAS LIKE TO HANDLE THAT  
RESPONSIBILITY AS WELL OR BETTER  
THAN ANY STATE IN THIS  
REGION, AND THEY DID THAT.  
AND INTERESTINGLY I WAS HOPING  
THAT WHEN THIS YEAR CAME AROUND,  
I WOULD NOT HAVE TO SINGLE OUT A  
GROUP WHO ALSO SET THE EXAMPLE  
FOR HOW TO OPERATE IN A CERTAIN  
ARENA.

AND WHILE THIS YEAR IT WAS NOT  
OUR HIGHWAY WORKERS WHO PLOWED  
THE ROADS, IT WAS OUR  
FIREFIGHTERS.

AND YOU THINK ABOUT SO MUCH ON A

RAINY NIGHT LIKE TONIGHT, WE  
FORGET ABOUT THE FACT THAT IT  
WASN'T TOO MANY MONTHS AGO, JUST  
A COUPLE REALLY, THAT 49 OF OUR  
120 COUNTIES WERE BURNING.

THINK ABOUT THAT.

49 COUNTIES.

THERE WERE 320 DIFFERENT FIRES  
ENCOMPASSING OVER 49,000 ACRES,  
AND THE HUNDREDS AND THOUSANDS  
OF PAID AND VOLUNTEER  
FIREFIGHTERS WHO PUT THOSE FIRES  
OUT AND WHO IN KENTUCKY WE LOST  
ONE BARN.

WE LOST NO HOMES IN WHICH PEOPLE  
LIVE, NO LIVES.

IT WAS AN EXAMPLE ONCE AGAIN TO  
THE NATION OF PEOPLE STEPPING UP  
AND DOING THEIR DUTY AS WELL OR  
BETTER THAN ANYBODY ANYWHERE.

SO JOIN ME IN THANKING OUR  
FIREFIGHTERS WHO KEPT US SAFE  
THIS PAST FALL.

[ CHEERS AND APPLAUSE ]

THANK YOU ALL.

I'LL TELL YOU OUR APPRECIATION  
IS TO THEM AND TO SO MANY OTHERS  
WHO I FEEL ANY TIME YOU SINGLE  
ANYONE OUT, YOU ALWAYS FEEL AS

IF YOU'RE MISSING OTHERS.

AND IF YOU REMEMBER LAST YEAR AS

WELL, WE HAD SENT OUT AN

EMAIL, AND SOME OF YOU GOT IT

AS WELL, AND ASKED FOLKS TO

PLEASE RESPOND TO US ABOUT IDEAS

THAT THEY HAD, THINGS WE COULD

DO IN THE COMMONWEALTH TO MAKE

KENTUCKY THE GREATEST VERSION OF

ITSELF THAT IT COULD POSSIBLY

BE, AND INDEED WE HEARD BACK

FROM HUNDREDS AND HUNDREDS OF

FOLKS.

AND WE READ THROUGH THOSE.

AND IN FACT LAST YEAR WE HAD

SEVERAL OF THE FOLKS WHO HAD

RESPONDED IN THE GALLERY AND WE

SINGLED THEM OUT, AND I THOUGHT

ABOUT DOING THAT AGAIN BUT I

DECIDED, YOU KNOW WHAT I'M GOING

TO DO?

I'M JUST GOING TO TAKE SOME OF THESE

RESPONSES THAT WE'VE GOTTEN AND

I'M GOING TO READ THEM TO YOU.

SO I DON'T WANT YOU TO THINK

THAT EVERYTHING IS SO ORGANIZED.

I ALSO HAVE THINGS THAT LOOK LIKE THE ONES

I HAVE SEEN ON YOUR DESK WHERE

YOU HAVE LOTS OF LITTLE - AND THERE ARE SO MANY OF THESE...



THESE ARE JUST SOME OF  
THE ONES WE'VE RECEIVED.

I DON'T HAVE TIME TO READ THEM ALL BUT I WANT TO TOUCH ON A COUPLE OF THEM.

ROBERT GRESHAM WROTE  
A VARIETY THINGS.

YOU CAN SEE HE WROTE A LOT OF  
STUFF.

BUT ONE OF THE THINGS I WAS  
STRUCK BY, HE'S A VOLUNTEER  
FIREFIGHTER IN LINE WITH WHAT WE  
WERE JUST SAYING, AND HE WAS  
SAYING "I WISH THERE WAS MORE  
EMPHASIS ON VOLUNTEERING IN  
KENTUCKY."

BECAUSE WE IN THE VOLUNTEER FIRE  
DEPARTMENTS AND SO MANY OTHER  
COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS NEED  
VOLUNTEERS.

AND SO I WOULD ENCOURAGE ALL OF  
YOU, EACH OF YOU TO TAKE IT UPON  
YOURSELF THIS YEAR, MAYBE WE'LL  
COME BACK TO THAT AT THE END  
WHEN WE TALK ABOUT A FEW  
CHALLENGES TO EVERYONE.

BUT LET US BE A STATE THAT,  
REGARDLESS OF WHAT THEY CALL  
THEMSELVES JUST SOUTH OF HERE --  
DON'T EVEN WORRY ABOUT THAT --  
LET US BE THE VOLUNTEER STATE.

LET US BE THE STATE THAT SHOWS  
AMERICA WHAT IT'S LIKE TO ENSURE  
THAT NO WORTHY CAUSE IN OUR  
COMMONWEALTH IS FOR LACK OF  
PEOPLE TO COME ALONGSIDE.

THERE IS A NOTE IN HERE FROM A  
WOMAN BY THE NAME OF RUTH  
COLLETTE, AND I'M NOT GOING TO  
READ THIS NOTE OTHER THAN TO SAY  
THAT RUTH IS A SCIENCE TEACHER  
AT LESLIE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL,  
AND I KID YOU NOT, RUTH, IF YOU  
ARE NOT ALSO TEACHING CREATIVE  
WRITING YOU SHOULD BE, AND I SAY  
THAT TO THE PRINCIPAL OF LESLIE  
COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL.

THIS IS A WOMAN WHO HAS A CLEAR  
PASSION AND LOVE FOR EDUCATION,  
FOR POURING INTO YOUNG PEOPLE  
WHICH SHE HAS DONE YEAR AFTER  
YEAR.

AND I JUST, I WANT YOU ALL TO KNOW WHO  
WROTE IT, AND I READ THESE  
EMAILS, MY TEAM READS THESE  
EMAILS, WE ARE MOVED BY THESE,  
INSPIRED BY THESE.  
HERE'S A NOTE THAT CAME IN FROM  
ONE OF OUR CPS SPECIALISTS AT  
THE L&N BUILDING DOWNTOWN.

HER NAME IS CRYSTAL WILDER AND I

WANT TO SIMPLY SAY THIS WITHOUT  
READING THE WHOLE NOTE, CRYSTAL,  
I AM GRATEFUL FOR YOUR  
ENTHUSIASM, AND I'LL TELL YOU  
IT'S CONTAGIOUS.  
TO EACH OF YOU, TO EVERY PERSON  
WHO WORKS IN STATE GOVERNMENT  
AND THOSE OF US WHO DON'T,  
SPREAD THE CONTAGION OF  
ENTHUSIASM, OF JOY, OF  
POSITIVENESS, OF BEING PEOPLE  
WHO SEE THE GLASS AS HALF FULL.  
THERE'S A NOTE IN HERE FROM A  
GENTLEMAN WHO SAID, ACTUALLY  
THIS IS FROM LONGIS MORGAN WHO  
SAID "THIS IS THE FIRST GOVERNOR  
IN MY 29 YEARS AS A STATE EMPLOYEE WHO  
HAS EVER ASKED FOR MY OPINION."  
AND THIS INDIVIDUAL GAVE SOME  
OPINIONS BUT ONE OF WHICH WAS  
THAT WE NEED TO DO SOMETHING  
WITH OUR TAX SYSTEM.  
WE'LL GET TO THAT IN A FEW  
MINUTES.  
INDEED, THERE'S A LOT WE NEED TO  
DO WITH OUR TAX SYSTEM IN THIS STATE.  
THERE WAS A THANK YOU  
NOTE FROM A DEMOCRAT - AND YES  
DEMOCRATS ARE ALSO ENCOURAGED TO

WRITE IN AT ANY TIME THAT THEY WOULD LIKE - BUT THIS IS SOMEBODY WHO SAID  
"ALTHOUGH I'M A DEMOCRAT I'M  
GRATEFUL FOR THE JOB THAT'S  
BEING DONE."

AND INTERESTINGLY THIS PERSON --  
I WON'T READ THE WHOLE THING.

BUT IT MIGHT GET THEM IN TROUBLE IN CERTAIN CIRCLES  
BUT SOME OF THINGS THEY'RE

MOST GRATEFUL FOR ARE THINGS NOT  
TYPICALLY SEEN AS BEING THOSE  
REPRESENTED BY THE PARTY THAT  
SHE IS A MEMBER OF.

THIS WAS BRENDA HALE.

BUT I TELL YOU THIS, I'M GRATEFUL FOR THE FACT THAT  
THERE ARE THINGS THAT TRANSCEND  
PARTY.

TODAY WE CELEBRATED IN ROTUNDA,  
ONE OF THE THINGS SO MANY PEOPLE  
IN THIS CHAMBER VOTED FOR, AND  
THOSE ARE THE PRO-LIFE PIECES  
LEGISLATION, AND WE'LL TOUCH ON  
THOSE IN A MOMENT AS WELL.

THERE'S A NOTE IN HERE FROM A  
GENTLEMAN BY THE NAME OF JOHN  
MONTGOMERY WHO SAID "WE NEED TO  
SPREAD THE WORD IN KENTUCKY THAT  
GOING TO WORK IS GOOD."

THERE'S A WHOLE LOT OF OTHER  
THINGS HE SAID BUT INDEED WE DO.

WE NEED TO MAKE KENTUCKY A PLACE  
THAT IS NOT 47th IN WORKFORCE  
PARTICIPATING BUT MOVES RAPIDLY UP  
THAT.

WE NEED TO BE A PLACE WE'RE  
WHERE GOING TO WORK IS  
CONSIDERED TO BE GOOD, PEOPLE  
ARE PROUD OF IT AND THAT WE  
CELEBRATE IT.

I WANT TO READ THIS ONE, THE  
BULK OF IT IN ITS ENTIRETY.  
THIS IS FROM A WOMAN NAMED JUDY  
CUMMINS.

JUDY CUMMINS WORKS AT CAMPBELL  
RIDGE SCHOOL IN ALEXANDRIA,  
KENTUCKY.

I WAS VERY MOVED BY THIS AND I'M  
JUST GOING TO READ A PORTION OF  
IT.

SHE SAID "I'M JUST A CUSTODIAN  
AT ONE OF KENTUCKY'S SCHOOLS,  
AND I GET TO SEE A LOT MORE THAN  
JUST CLEANING.

WHATEVER IT TAKES IS OUR MOTTO  
HERE AT CAMPBELL RIDGE SCHOOL,  
AND WE HOLD UP TO THIS."  
AND SHE GOES ON TO APOLOGIZE FOR  
THE FACT THAT THIS WAS  
INCORRECTLY SPELLED AND SHE WAS

PUTTING IT TOGETHER IN A HURRY.

SHE SAID "I'M JUST A COUNTRY  
GIRL BUT I'M PROUD OF YOU AND  
YOUR STAFF."

AND SHE'S PROUD OF KENTUCKY.

I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR SENDING  
THAT NOTE.

I WANT TO THANK ALL OF THE  
CUSTODIANS.

THE CUSTODIANS WHO TAKE CARE OF  
EVERY ONE THESE TRASH CANS, THE  
PEOPLE WHO EMPTY EVERY ONE OF  
THESE OUT EVERY NIGHT IN THIS  
CHAMBER IN EVERY OFFICE IN THIS  
BUILDINGS, IN EVERY SCHOOL IN  
KENTUCKY, IN EVERY OFFICE  
BUILDING IN KENTUCKY.

SO OFTEN THEY COME IN WHEN WE GO  
HOME, WE COME BACK TO A CLEAN,  
TIDY, EMPTY, CLEANED-UP PLACE,  
AND IT'S BECAUSE OF PEOPLE  
EXACTLY LIKE HER.

PEOPLE WHO THINK THEY'RE 'JUST A  
CUSTODIAN'.

BUT I'LL TELL YOU WHAT.

THE BACKBONE OF AMERICA IS  
COMPRISED OF PEOPLE WHO DO JOBS  
LIKE THAT.

PLEASE JOIN ME IN THANKING THE

PEOPLE WHO KEEP US FRANKLY FROM  
BEING BURIED IN THE PAPERWORK THAT  
WE GENERATE OVER AND OVER  
AGAIN.

PLEASE THANK ME IN THANKING JUDY  
CUMMINGS.

[ APPLAUSE ]  
THANK YOU, JUDY.

THANK YOU.  
[ APPLAUSE ]

JUDY CUMMINS, THANK YOU FOR  
WRITING IN.

AS A GUY THAT USED TO CLEAN  
OFFICES WITH MY DAD AT NIGHT,  
THAT ONE MEANT A LOT TO ME  
PERSONALLY.

THERE ARE SO MANY OTHER ONES IN  
HERE, SOMEBODY SAYING THEY WERE  
COMPLAINING WHEN I ASKED THEM TO  
SEND A NOTE IN LAST YEAR AND  
THIS YEAR THEY WERE HAPPY TO DO  
IT.

THANK YOU TO DANA DAISY FOR  
THAT COMMENT.  
AGAIN, THERE'S SO MANY OTHERS HERE...

A COACH IN PAINTSVILLE THAT I  
HAD OCCASION TO RUN SPRINTS WITH  
HIS TEAM.

NEXT YEAR I'M GOING TO HAVE  
CLEATS, AND YOU TELL YOUR GUYS

TO BE READY.

IN TALKING ABOUT THE FOOD IN OUR  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

AND WHILE I'M NOT GOING TO GO  
OFF ON THIS HE'S JUST COMMENTING  
HOW MUCH FOOD IS WASTED BECAUSE  
FRANKLY WE'RE NOT FEEDING PEOPLE  
ANYTHING THEY ACTUALLY WANT TO EAT.  
SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT.

WE'RE NOT GOING TO GO INTO THAT  
BUT LET'S THINK ABOUT THESE KIND OF  
THINGS AS WE MOVE FORWARD.

[ APPLAUSE ]

APPARENTLY THERE ARE PEOPLE HERE  
WHO HAVE EATEN OR WHOSE KIDS ARE  
NOW EATING THESE LUNCHESES,  
APPARENTLY.

I WANT TO TOUCH ON THIS ONE REAL  
QUICKLY AND I'M ONLY GOING TO  
MENTION THIS WOMAN'S FIRST NAME.  
HER NAME IS DEBORAH AND THIS IS  
WHAT SHE WROTE TO ME.

SHE SAID, "I'D LIKE TO SEE MORE HELP  
FOR OUR YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN WHO  
ARE COMING HOME.

OUR YOUNG VETS ARE COMMITTING  
SUICIDE AT A RATE OF 22 PER DAY.  
MY SON BECAME ONE OF THESE YOUNG  
PEOPLE WHEN HE TOOK HIS LIFE



FOUR MONTHS AGO.

HE HAD SERVED IN THE MARINE  
CORPS, DID TWO DEPLOYMENTS.

HE ATTEMPTED TO GET HELP BUT THE  
HELP CAME TOO SLOW AND TOO LATE.

AS A MOTHER, I DON'T WANT TO SEE  
THIS HAPPENING TO OTHER  
FAMILIES.

MY SON -- MY SON ASKED IN HIS  
LETTER TO BE REMEMBERED FOR THE  
MAN HE WAS AND NOT THE MAN HE  
BECAME.

THAT IS HIS LEGACY THAT I WANT  
HIM TO LEAVE, AND MY LEGACY TO  
HIM IS TO DO WHATEVER I CAN TO  
STOP THE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN  
FROM COMMITTING SUICIDE."

DEBORAH, WE WILL BE IN TOUCH  
WITH YOU.

AND I WILL NEED YOUR HELP TO  
LEAD THAT CHARGE.

AND I CHALLENGE THOSE OF YOU IN  
THIS LEGISLATIVE BODY, THE TWO  
BODIES, TAKE THIS TO HEART.

THESE ARE THE YOUNG MEN AND  
WOMEN WHO HAVE LAID EVERYTHING  
OUT FOR US, AND THERE IS NO  
GREATER LOVE THAN THAT.

I WANT TO READ JUST A COUPLE

MORE REAL QUICKLY.

THERE'S SOMEBODY WHO -- A  
NUMBER WHO WROTE IN ABOUT FOSTER  
CARE AND ADOPTION, PEOPLE LIKE  
AMANDA VARNEY.

AMANDA, I WANT YOU TO KNOW AND  
CHRISTINA DAMON AND OTHERS, WE  
ARE GOING TO BE APPOINTING, FOR  
LACK OF A BETTER TERM, A CZAR,  
SOMEBODY WHO IS GOING TO HAVE  
OVERSIGHT FOR ADOPTION AND  
FOSTER CARE IN THE COMMONWEALTH  
OF KENTUCKY, AND IT IS MY  
VISION, IT IS MY INTENT AND I AM  
DETERMINED TO SEE HAPPEN THE  
FACT THAT KENTUCKY WILL BE THE  
MODEL FOR AMERICA WHEN IT COMES  
TO ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE,  
THAT THERE WILL BE NO STATE IN  
AMERICA THAT MORE SAFELY,  
MORE QUICKLY, MORE  
EFFICIENTLY AND MORE COST  
EFFECTIVELY FACILITATES THE  
ADOPTION PROCESS.  
AND IF YOU ARE TO BE A FOSTER  
CHILD ANYWHERE IN AMERICA,  
YOU'RE GOING TO WISH YOU WERE  
A FOSTER CHILD IN KENTUCKY.

THAT'S WHERE WE'RE GOING.

WE ARE GOING TAKE THIS ON.

IT IS GOING TO BE A POSITION

REPORTING TO MY OFFICE.

[ APPLAUSE ]

THERE ARE CURRENTLY -- THERE ARE

CURRENTLY MORE THAN 8,000

CHILDREN IN OUR FOSTER CARE

SYSTEM.

THERE'S SOME NUMBER AT WHICH

THERE'S ALWAYS GOING TO BE, BUT  
IT NEEDS TO BE A WHOLE LOT LOWER

THAN THAT AND WE'RE GOING TO GET

THIS PROBLEM FIXED.

THERE'S A WOMAN WHO WROTE IN,

HANNAH WROTE IN WITH SOME

COMMENTS ON MEDICAID.

WANTS TO SEE MEDICAID PRESERVED

FOR THOSE WHO TRULY NEED IT.

SHE TALKED ABOUT HER

16-MONTH-OLD SON WHO HAS BATTLED

SOME TRULY DEBILITATING HEALTH

ISSUES, AND SHE TALKS ABOUT HOW

IMPACTFUL AND IMPORTANT MEDICAID

WAS TO HER AND HER FAMILY.

HANNAH, I HEAR YOU, AND I

UNDERSTAND EXACTLY HOW CRITICAL

IT IS, AND IT'S WHY WE NEED TO

PRESERVE MEDICAID FOR FAMILIES

LIKE YOURS FOR WHOM IT WAS  
INTENDED, FOR THE MEDICALLY  
FRAIL, FOR CHILDREN, FOR  
PREGNANT WOMEN, FOR THOSE WITH  
DEPENDENTS, FOR THOSE TRULY IN  
NEED.

IF WE INDEED OFFER TO IT THOSE WHO  
DON'T NEED IT, ALLOW PEOPLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SYSTEM AND  
MISUSE THE SYSTEM, IT COMES AT  
THE VERY EXPENSE OF THOSE  
WHO TRULY NEED IT AND IT COMES  
AT A PRICE THAT FRANKLY CANNOT  
BE AFFORDED AND ULTIMATELY TAKES  
AWAY FROM THOSE WHO NEED  
IT. SO I HEAR YOU AND WE WILL  
MAKE THESE NOTES. WE REALLY WILL.

I GOT A NUMBER OF NOTES FROM  
LEGISLATORS. I WON'T EMBARRASS ANY OF YOU  
YOU BY READING THEM BUT THANK  
YOU FOR HAVING WRITTEN AND I  
TRULY TAKE YOUR COMMENTS TO  
HEART.

THE LAST ONE I'LL NOTE IS FROM A WOMAN, LAURIE ADAMS,  
WHO WORKS AT THE BULLIT COUNTY  
WELCOME CENTER WHO TALKED ABOUT THE  
FACT THAT SHE'D LOVE TO SEE OUR  
REST STOPS AND WELCOME CENTERS  
BE BETTER VERSIONS OF  
THEMSELVES, JUST LIKE WE ASPIRE  
TO IN KENTUCKY, TO HAVE THESE BE

MORE WELCOMING, MORE BEAUTIFUL,  
MORE MEMORABLE, AND INDEED I'M  
WORKING WITH OUR TOURISM  
CABINET, DON PARKINSON, AND THAT  
SECRETARY AND HIS ENTIRE TEAM ON  
THIS EXACT ISSUE AND WE ARE  
DETERMINED TO MAKE SURE PEOPLE  
TRULY DO FEEL WELCOMED WHEN THEY  
STOP.

I WANT THEM TO STOP IN KENTUCKY  
AND WISH THEY COULD STAY AND I  
WANT THEM TO COME BACK,  
ESPECIALLY IF THEY'RE TAXPAYERS.  
I WANT TO TOUCH ON JUST A COUPLE  
OF THINGS, JUST A COUPLE OF  
THINGS THAT WE HAVE DONE IN THE  
PAST YEAR.

WE PUT ASIDE \$1.2 BILLION INTO  
OUR AILING PENSION SYSTEM, MORE  
MONEY THAN HAS EVER BEEN PUT  
INTO OUR AILING PENSION SYSTEM, AND  
YET IT'S JUST A DROP IN THE  
BUCKET.

WE'LL COME TO THAT IN A MOMENT  
WHEN WE TALK ABOUT WHAT WE NEED  
TO ADDRESS GOING FORWARD.

BUT THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS WE  
HAVE GOT TO SHORE THIS UP.

WE HAVE GOT THE WORST FUNDED

PENSION SYSTEM IN AMERICA, AND  
WE STARTED ON THAT.  
WE INCREASED FUNDING TO COMBAT  
HEROIN AND THE SUBSTANCE ABUSE  
BY \$12 MILLION OVER THE NEXT TWO  
YEARS.

WE EXPANDED OUR ROCKET DOCKET  
PROGRAMS.

WE EXPANDED OUR SOCIAL WORKER  
PROGRAMS.

WE INCREASED TREATMENT OPTIONS  
FOR THOSE THAT ARE INCARCERATED  
AND TRANSITIONING FROM  
INCARCERATION BACK INTO SOCIETY.

WE EXPANDED OUR NEONATAL  
ABSTINENCE SYNDROME TREATMENT PROGRAMS.

WE HAVE PROVIDED FUNDING TO  
CLEAN UP OUR STATE PARKS AND TO  
TAKE CARE OF DEFERRED  
MAINTENANCE.

INTERESTINGLY WE PUT IN  
\$18 MILLION IN THE LAST BUDGET.

YOU ALL DID THIS AND I AM  
GRATEFUL TO YOU AND THE PEOPLE  
OF KENTUCKY ARE GRATEFUL TO YOU, BUT  
THAT \$18 MILLION BELIEVE IT OR  
NOT WAS ONLY 10% ROUGHLY OF THE  
AMOUNT OF DEFERRED MAINTENANCE  
WE HAVE, AND YET THAT

\$18 MILLION WAS THREE TIMES AS  
MUCH AS WE HAD PUT IN COMBINED  
IN THE PREVIOUS TEN YEARS.

THERE'S A LOT OF DEFERRED  
MAINTENANCE HERE IN THE  
COMMONWEALTH, NOT THE LEAST OF  
WHICH IS THIS BUILDING ITSELF,  
AND I HOPE YOU'VE APPRECIATED THAT  
WE ARE STARTING TO CLEAN IT UP.

IT'S NO SMALL TASK.

IT'S NO SMALL BUILDING.

BUT I'LL TELL YOU SOME OF THESE

BEAUTIFUL FRESCOS, THESE BEAUTIFUL  
STONE CARVINGS ARE NOT AS

GREEN AND MOSSY AS THEY ONCE

WERE, AND THIS IS THE KIND OF

THING WE ARE DOING WHERE WE LEAD

BY EXAMPLE AND SHOW THE PRIDE

THAT WE HAVE IN THE

COMMONWEALTH.

WE HAVE SUBMITTED AN 1115

DEMONSTRATION WAIVER THAT WE'RE

ASKING FROM THE FEDERAL

GOVERNMENT AS IT IS RELATES TO  
TO OUR ABILITY TO PROVIDE BETTER

HEALTH CARE TO THOSE IN NEED IN

OUR COMMONWEALTH.

STAY TUNED ON THAT.

I THINK IT'S AN OPPORTUNITY FOR

KENTUCKY TO LEAD.

I HAD A CALL TODAY WITH A BUNCH  
OF OTHER GOVERNORS FROM  
AROUND THE COUNTRY.

THIS IS A BIG ISSUE, WE'RE ALL WRESTLING WITH THIS.

AS THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT WHICH  
HAS TURNED OUT TO BE ANYTHING  
BUT GOES AWAY, WHAT WILL TAKE  
ITS PLACE?

HOW WILL IT BE DONE?

WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY WILL IT BE?

WHAT WILL KENTUCKY DO?

THESE ARE THINGS WE'RE WRESTLING  
WITH.

BUT WE HAVE PROPOSED SOMETHING  
THAT HAS THE ABILITY TO LEAD THE

NATION IN TERMS OF ENTITLEMENT

REFORM, THE LIKES OF WHICH WE

HAVE NOT SEEN IN 20 YEARS SINCE

THE MID-1990S WITH WELFARE

REFORM.

THESE THINGS ARE COMING.

WE HAVE PROVIDED A SENSE OF

DIGNITY TO RECIPIENTS THROUGH

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN THIS PROPOSAL,

THE ABILITY FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE

AN ENGAGEMENT IN THEIR HEALTH

OUTCOMES.

THESE THINGS WILL BE GOOD.

I WANT TO ALSO TALK ABOUT HOW



WE'RE GOING TO MAINTAIN  
LONG-TERM VIABILITY OF MEDICAID  
AND THAT'S SOMETHING THAT YOU  
CAN SEE, YOU CAN FIND A COPY OF  
THIS ON OUR WEBSITE.  
IT'S AN 1115 WAIVER.  
IF ANY OF YOU ARE INTERESTED  
IN IT, TAKE A LOOK AT IT AND IF YOU WANT TO, CONTACT OUR OFFICE AND WE  
WILL GET YOU A COPY OF IT.  
FOR EDUCATION IN 2016 WE PUT  
MORE MONEY INTO THE SEEK FORMULA  
THAN HAS EVER BEEN PUT IN, NOT ONLY IN ABSOLUTE DOLLARS, BUT AS  
MUCH OR MORE PER CAPITA THAN HAS  
EVER BEEN APPLIED TO K-12 EDUCATION  
IN THE COMMONWEALTH, AND YET  
THERE'S MORE TO BE DONE BUT IT'S  
NOTES JUST PURELY DOLLARS.  
THERE'S REAL NEED FOR EDUCATION  
REFORM.  
WE PUT \$100 MILLION INTO, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.  
\$100 MILLION.  
THAT'S MONEY THAT HAS BEEN  
COMPETED FOR BY HIGH SCHOOLS,  
COLLEGES AND BUSINESSES  
COMMUNITY WORKING TOGETHER, AND  
THOSE APPLICATIONS FLOODED IN,  
HUNDREDS OF THEM, AND THEY  
ULTIMATELY WERE SEEKING MORE  
THAN \$500 MILLION, AND YET WE

ONLY HAD \$100 MILLION.  
THE FIRST 65 OF THOSE HAVE  
JUST RECENTLY BEEN AWARDED  
AND HERE'S THE POWERFUL AND  
WONDERFUL THING ABOUT IT.  
THOSE \$65 MILLION THAT YOU ALL  
AUTHORIZED THE PEOPLE OF  
KENTUCKY TO INVEST IN THE FUTURE  
OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SPAWNED  
\$140 MILLION WORTH OF  
COMMITMENT TO DEVELOPING  
WORKFORCE.

THE AVERAGE GRANT THAT IS BEING  
GIVEN, THE AVERAGE AMOUNT OF  
MONEY THAT'S BEING GIVEN IS 50%.  
THE MOST IS ABOUT 85%, AND  
THAT'S IN SOME OF OUR SMALLER  
COUNTIES AND SOME OF THE SMALLER  
PROJECTS.

BUT THAT \$65 MILLION OF THE  
FIRST \$100 MILLION IS RESULTING  
IN 140 PLUS MILLION DOLLARS IN  
INVESTMENT.

\$15 MILLION WENT INTO A DUAL  
CREDIT PROGRAM THAT YOU ALL  
PASSED INTO LAW THAT ALLOWS OUR  
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO START  
ALREADY EARNING CREDIT TOWARD  
COLLEGE WHILE THEY'RE STILL IN

HIGH SCHOOL.

WE HAVE AN APPRENTICESHIP  
PROGRAM.

YOU APPROPRIATED \$500,000 FOR  
OUR APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM AND  
THAT \$500,000 HAS GIVEN OUR  
SECRETARY OF LABOR DEREK RAMSEY  
THE ABILITY TO GO OUT AND ACTUALLY APPLY  
FOR AND RECEIVE AN \$896,000  
GRANT FROM THE FEDERAL  
GOVERNMENT FOR THE VERY SAME  
PURPOSE, TO CREATE  
APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS AND TO  
WORK WITH OUR VARIOUS COMPANIES OVER  
1,100 OF WHICH ARE CURRENTLY  
ALREADY SIGNED UP FOR OR WANTING TO BE ENGAGED IN AN  
APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM.

WE ARE GOING TO BECOME THE MODEL  
FOR THIS IN THE NATION.

MY VISION, AND I'VE SAID IT MANY  
TIMES AND I WILL SAY IT AGAIN,  
MY VISION IS THAT KENTUCKY

BECOMES THE HUB OF EXCELLENCE  
FOR ENGINEERING AND

MANUFACTURING IN AMERICA, THAT  
THERE IS NO STATE BETTER

POSITIONED THAN US

GEOGRAPHICALLY, DEMOGRAPHICALLY  
WITH THE LOGISTICS CAPABILITIES,

THE SEASONALITY THAT WE HAVE, THE HIGHWAYS,

RIVER WAYS, THE ROADWAYS.

I HAVE SAID IT, I WILL KEEP SAYING IT...

I SING IT LOUDLY AND I SING IT

PROUDLY WHEN I'M WITH OTHER

GOVERNORS WE WILL BE THE

ABSOLUTE CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE FOR

MANUFACTURING AND ENGINEERING.

THAT PENDULUM IS SWINGING BACK TO AMERICA RIGHT  
NOW, IF YA'LL HAVEN'T BEEN PAYING ATTENTION, AND WE ARE

GOING TO BE THE EPICENTER OF IT.

THERE'S NOBODY BETTER POSITIONED AND THIS IS SOMETHING WE'RE GOING TO SEE

AND WE'VE SEEN EXAMPLES OF THAT

JUST RECENTLY IN TERMS OF SOME

OF THE MAJOR DECISIONS MADE BY

EMPLOYERS WHO ARE COMING HERE,

OTHERS THAT WE'RE TALKING TO FOR

THE VERY SAME REASON.

WE DID THINGS LAST YEAR FOR

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITIES, PAY

RAISES FOR POLICE OFFICERS, FOR  
SOCIAL WORKERS, FOR

TRANSPORTATION WORKERS AND

OTHERS LONG OVERDUE.

THERE'S STILL OTHERS AND I KNOW

IT, I REALLY DO, AND WE'RE

LOOKING AT WAYS IN WHICH WE CAN

ENSURE THAT WE START TO HONOR

THOSE WHO CONTINUOUSLY WORK SO

HARD ON BEHALF OF THE

COMMONWEALTH.

WE LAUNCHED OUR FOSTERING  
SUCCESS PROGRAM.

THIS IS A PROGRAM WHERE  
WE'RE ALLOWING THOSE STUDENTS,  
THOSE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO HAVE AGED  
OUT OF FOSTER CARE 18 TO 23  
YEARS OLD WHO JUST ARE DUMPED  
OUT INTO SOCIETY WITH NO FAMILY  
AND NO SUPPORT NETWORK TO BE  
ABLE TO BE LINED UP WITH FAMILY  
THAT ARE WILLING TO COME  
ALONGSIDE THEM WITHOUT LEGAL  
OBLIGATION, WITHOUT FINANCIAL  
OBLIGATION BUT WILLING TO COME  
ALONGSIDE AND HELP THEM OUT.

MY WIFE HAS BEEN A PIONEER IN  
THAT PROJECT AND HAS HELPED TO  
LAUNCH THAT.

WE'RE WORKING WITH FOUNDATIONS AROUND  
THE COUNTRY WHO ARE WANTING KENTUCKY AGAIN TO BE A  
MODEL ON THIS FRONT, AND I'M  
GRATEFUL FOR THE WORK THAT WAS  
DONE THERE.

WE SIGNED HISTORIC PRO-LIFE  
LEGISLATION WHICH WE'LL TALK  
ABOUT IN A MOMENT.

I MEAN, THESE ARE THINGS EVEN  
LAST YEAR AND AGAIN THIS YEAR

THAT ARE ALLOWING KENTUCKY TO  
SERVE AS A MODEL FOR THE NATION  
IN TERMS OF OUR RESPECT AND  
APPRECIATION FOR THE SANCTITY OF  
HUMAN LIFE.

AND WE'VE PASSED LEGISLATION  
BOTH LAST YEAR AND THIS YEAR  
AND WE'LL TOUCH ON IT, THAT HAVE  
GIVEN PEOPLE -- LAST YEAR WAS  
LEGISLATION.

THIS YEAR THUS FAR WAS AN  
EXECUTIVE ACTION AND I THINK  
WILL SOON BE LEGISLATION AS  
WELL.

THE TALK ABOUT GIVING PEOPLE A  
SECOND CHANCE.

WE HAVE SO MANY PEOPLE WHO MADE  
A MISTAKE, WHO HAVE GOTTEN  
CROSSWAYS WITH THE CRIMINAL  
JUSTICE SYSTEM.

AND WE ARE A NATION OF SECOND  
CHANCE, A NATION OF REDEMPTION,  
A PLACE WHERE EXPUNGEMENT WAS A  
BILL I WAS SO HAPPY TO BE ABLE  
TO SIGN LAST YEAR.

I APPRECIATE YOU FOR PUTTING  
THROUGH YOUR CHAMBERS.

I'M GRATEFUL FOR THE FACT THAT  
WE HAVE REMOVED THE BOX ON THE

FORMS THAT REQUIRE PEOPLE TO SAY  
THAT THEY ARE A CONVICTED  
FELON.

THEY CAN STILL BE ASKED THIS  
QUESTION.

IN FACT, IT'S PART OF A  
THOUGHTFUL AND THOROUGH  
INTERVIEW PROCESS.

BUT I'M ENCOURAGING COMPANIES  
THAT ARE OUT THERE, PRIVATE  
SECTOR COMPANIES, WHILE YOU'RE  
NOT REQUIRED TO DO THE SAME, SO  
MANY GOOD COMPANIES LIKE TARGET,  
LIKE HOME DEPOT, OTHERS LIKE  
WALMART, THESE ARE LARGE  
EMPLOYERS WHO HAVE TAKEN IT UPON  
THEMSELVES TO DO THE VERY SAME  
THING, I WOULD ENCOURAGE ALL OF  
YOU TO CONSIDER DOING SO.  
SOME CITIES AND SOME COUNTIES  
HAVE DONE THE SAME.

I WANT TO TALK JUST BRIEFLY AS  
WELL ABOUT THE FACT THAT WE'VE  
ALSO CLEANED UP THE BACKLOG OF  
RAPE TEST KITS.

THIS IS SOMETHING THAT'S BEEN  
TALKED ABOUT FOR YEARS.

SO MANY DIFFERENT OFFICES, SO  
MANY DIFFERENT PEOPLE, SO MANY

DIFFERENT ADMINISTRATIONS HAVE  
TALKED ABOUT IT.  
IT'S FINALLY CLEANED UP.  
THE BACKLOG IS GONE AND  
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THOSE WHO  
HELPED TO MAKE SURE THAT  
THAT HAPPENED.

[ APPLAUSE ]

AS WE MOVE FORWARD INTO 2017, I  
WANT TO ENCOURAGE YOU ALL TO  
PLEASE BE PATIENT BECAUSE THERE  
IS SO MUCH -- I'VE SPOKEN TO  
THESE TWO GENTLEMEN BEHIND ME.  
WE'RE ALL CHOMPING AT THE BIT.  
THERE IS SO MUCH STUFF WE WANT  
TO DO.

THERE'S STUFF THAT HAS  
BEEN BOGGLED UP FOR THE BETTER  
PART OF -- I DON'T KNOW -- 96  
YEARS OR SO.

BUT THERE ARE THINGS THAT WE  
WOULD LIKE TO SEE GET DONE AND  
THEY WILL GET DONE BUT IN  
FAIRNESS TO THEM THERE IS NO WAY  
WHAT THEY DID IN THE FIRST WEEK  
OF THIS SESSION IS EVEN  
REMOVEDLY POSSIBLE ON AN ONGOING  
BASIS.

WE NEED TO BE THOUGHTFUL AND



CAREFUL WITH EVERYTHING THAT WE  
DO.

THOSE WERE POSSIBLE BECAUSE SO  
MUCH WORK HAD BEEN DONE IN  
ADVANCE OF THAT SESSION  
BEGINNING.

BUT AS WE GET DEEPER INTO THE  
SESSION, THINGS START TO CATCH  
UP.

AND SO I ENCOURAGE YOU PLEASE BE  
PATIENT.

THOSE OF YOU THAT ARE OUT THERE  
WATCHING THAT WANT THIS, THAT  
AND THE OTHER THING DONE, THEY  
WILL COME.

IF THEY DON'T COME THIS YEAR  
THEY WILL BE COMING SOON EITHER  
IN SPECIAL SESSIONS OR IN THE YEARS  
THAT FOLLOW.

SO WE WILL BE WORKING ON A  
VARIETY OF THINGS AS WE MOVE  
FORWARD.

I JUST WANT TO TAKE A BRIEF  
MOMENT THOUGH AND CONGRATULATE THESE  
BODIES, TO ALL WHO ARE WATCHING  
THIS PUBLICLY ON THE TRULY  
UNPRECEDENTED AND HISTORIC AND  
UNBELIEVABLE AND NATION-WATCHING,  
MIND-BLOWING FIRST WEEK THAT

WAS HAD UNDER THE FIRST SPEAKER  
OF THE HOUSE AS A REPUBLICAN THAT WE  
HAVE HAD IN 96 YEARS.

JEFF HOOVER MASTERFULLY  
ACCOMPLISHED SOMETHING THAT PEOPLE  
DIDN'T THINK WAS POSSIBLE.

[ CHEERS AND APPLAUSE ]

I THINK PRESIDENT STIVERS TOLD  
THEM WHAT HE ALWAYS TELL ME IS  
THAT HE TAUGHT 'EM EVERYTHING  
THAT HE KNOWS.

THAT'S WHAT HE'S ALWAYS TELLING

ME.  
IN ALL SERIOUSNESS I'VE LEARNED

A TON FROM BOTH OF THESE GUYS

INCLUDING SENATOR STIVERS AND I TELL YOU, WE

COULD NOT HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT

THE LEADERSHIP OF THESE TWO

GUYS, PASSING THE TYPE OF PRO-BUSINESS LEGISLATION, PASSING RIGHT TO WORK

LEGISLATION WHICH IMMEDIATELY

ALLOWS TO US FISH IN BIGGER

PONDS.

I SAT NEXT TO THE AMBASSADOR

FROM SWEDEN A COUPLE OF WEEKS

AGO WHO TOLD ME VOLVO WANTED TO

BE HERE.

VOLVO COULD HAVE BEEN HERE,

WOULD HAVE BEEN HERE.

HAD WE BEEN SERIOUS ABOUT

PASSING RIGHT TO WORK, IF WE HAD  
SHOWN ANY INTEREST IN THEM AS A  
COMPANY WITH ANY REAL  
SIGNIFICANCE THEY WOULD HAVE  
BEEN HERE.

THOSE ARE THE KIND OF COMPANIES  
THAT WANT TO SEE THIS.

COMPANIES THAT HAVE COME HERE  
JUST RECENTLY WANTED TO SEE  
THIS.

OTHERS THAT ARE LOOKING AT US  
WANT TO SEE THIS.

THESE THINGS WILL OPEN UP OUR  
WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY THAT WILL  
CREATE JOBS FOR ALL PARTIES  
CONCERNED.

TENNESSEE CREATES MORE THAN  
20,000 JOBS A YEAR, MORE THAN WE  
DO.

THEY'RE A RIGHT TO WORK STATE,  
HAVE BEEN FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS.  
AND SO THIS IS THE TYPE OF THING  
THAT'S GOING TO CREATE  
OPPORTUNITIES FOR US.

REPEALING THE PREVAILING WAGE.

I SPOKE TO SEVERAL PEOPLE  
ALREADY JUST TODAY ACTUALLY AT A  
ENTIRELY UNRELATED EVENT, PEOPLE  
WHO ARE TALKING TO ME ABOUT THE FACT OF HOW MUCH

IT SAVED THEM ON PROJECTS IN THEIR  
RESPECTIVE SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND  
COMMUNITIES ALREADY ON PUBLIC PROJECTS.

I MEAN ALREADY SINCE YOU PASSED  
THIS LEGISLATION JUST A COUPLE  
OF WEEKS REQUESTING AGO.

SO IT'S ALREADY SAVING  
SIGNIFICANT MONEY.

IT IS ESTIMATED IT'S GOING TO  
SAVE US 125, 130 \$135 MILLION A YEAR  
IN NOT OVERPAYING FOR PROJECTS  
BEING PAID FOR WITH TAXPAYER  
MONEY.

WE'VE PASSED PAYCHECK  
PROTECTION.

THESE TWO WILL ALLOW US TO BE  
ABLE TO NOT PUT THINGS ON  
EMPLOYEES IN THIS STATE THAT THEY  
DON'T WANT PUT ON THEM.

THIS PUTS THE POWER IN THE  
INDIVIDUAL'S HAND, IN THE  
EMPLOYEE'S HAND, AND THAT'S THE  
WAY IT SHOULD BE.

THAT IS THE AMERICAN WAY, THAT  
TYPE OF RESPONSIBILITY ON THE  
INDIVIDUAL.

WE PASSED TWO SIGNIFICANT PIECES  
OF PRO-LIFE LEGISLATION, AND FOR  
THOSE WHO THINK THAT SOMEHOW

THESE WERE NOT DESIRED OR  
POPULAR, THEY WERE NOT HERE IN  
THE ROTUNDA TODAY.  
YOU COULDN'T FIND STANDING ROOM  
HARDLY ANYWHERE ON ANY OF THE  
DECKS IN THIS PLACE, AND SO MANY  
LEGISLATORS DID SUCH A GOOD JOB,  
AND I TIP MY HAT TO THOSE OF YOU  
WHO WERE PART OF THE 83% OF  
KENTUCKIANS WHO RECOGNIZE THE  
FACT THAT WE IN THE COMMONWEALTH  
OF KENTUCKY RESPECT THE SANCTITY  
OF HUMAN LIFE, AND WE WILL DO  
EVERYTHING WE CAN TO DEFEND IT.

[ APPLAUSE ]

I ENCOURAGE YOU, PLEASE, IF  
YOU'RE WATCHING THANK YOUR  
LEGISLATORS.  
THANK SPEAKER HOOVER.  
THANK PRESIDENT STIVERS.  
I TRULY WOULD ASK YOU TO WRITE A  
NOTE TO THEM NOT ONLY BY  
EMAIL.  
RIGHT WRITE THEM A NOTE.  
TAKE TIME TO WRITE A LETTER TO  
THE EDITOR, THANK THESE MEN  
AND WOMEN FOR PASSING IMPORTANT  
LEGISLATION LIKE THIS.  
WE TALK ABOUT EMPOWERING WOMEN

WITH KNOWLEDGE, ABOUT ALLOWING  
WOMEN TO HAVE THE BEST IN HEALTH  
CARE, IN SAFETY.

THIS ULTRA SOUND BILL WILL  
PROVIDE THEM WITH THE ABSOLUTE  
BEST IN TERMS OF MEDICAL  
KNOWLEDGE, TO ALLOW THEM TO MAKE  
INFORMED DECISIONS.

THIS 20 WEEK BAN ON ABORTION  
ALLOWS US TO RECOGNIZE THE FACT  
THAT AN UNBORN CHILD AT FIVE  
MONTHS OF DEVELOPMENT FEELS  
INTENSE PAIN AND IT IS CRUEL AND  
UNUSUAL AND HARMFUL TO BE ABLE  
TO TAKE THAT CHILD'S LIFE WITH  
NOT EVEN THE THOUGHT OF AN  
ANESTHETIC.

WE WOULDN'T DO THIS TO SOMEONE  
BEING PUT TO DEATH THROUGH  
CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

WE PUNISH PEOPLE FOR DOING THESE  
THINGS TO OUR PETS, AND THE VERY  
LEAST WE CAN DO IS PROTECT  
UNBORN CHILDREN IN  
KENTUCKY.

SO THANK YOU ALL FOR BEING PART  
OF PASSING THAT LEGISLATION.

WE TALKED ABOUT OTHER CHALLENGES  
THAT WE HAVE TO FACE, AND I'LL

SWITCH TO THAT BRIEFLY AND THEN

TALK ABOUT A COUPLE IDEAS.

WE DO STILL HAVE A LOT OF WOOD

TO CHOP HERE IN THE

COMMONWEALTH.

FOR ALL THE THINGS WE HAVE DONE,

FOR ALL THE OPPORTUNITIES AHEAD

OF US SOME OF THEM SEEM A BIT

DAUNTING.

WE DO STILL HAVE A TREMENDOUS

HOLE IN TERMS OF OUR PENSION.

IF WE LOOK AT IT HONESTLY AND

ACTUALLY PEG WHAT WE OWE TO THE

TRUE -- THE LIABILITY OF WHAT WE

HAVE IN ASSUMING WE'RE ONLY

GOING TO GET LIKE 30-YEAR  
TREASURY NOTES AS THE RETURN, NOT

THESE HYPOTHETICAL NUMBERS THAT

WE HAVEN'T BEEN GETTING AND ARE NOT

GOING TO GET.

WE DON'T HAVE A 30 OR 35

OR \$38 BILLION PENSION PROBLEM.

WE HAVE AN \$82 BILLION PENSION

PROBLEM.

\$82 BILLION IS WHAT IS

OWED.

THAT IS JUST SHORT OF \$19,000  
FOR EVERY SINGLE MAN, WOMAN AND

CHILD IN KENTUCKY.

AND IT TOUCHES ALL OF YOU,

LEGISLATORS, TOUCHES THOSE IN  
THE JUDICIAL RANKS, TOUCHES ALL  
THE AFOREMENTIONED STATE WORKERS  
WE TALKED ABOUT, TOUCHES ON  
TEACHERS.

IT TOUCHES A NUMBER OF FOLKS.

EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THESE.

IF WE USE A TRUE EXPECTED RATE

OF RETURN THAT WE'RE LIKELY TO BE ABLE

TO GET, THE BEST FUNDED PENSION

SYSTEM WE HAVE IS LESS THAN 50% FUNDED, THE BEST.

I WON'T EVEN TELL YOU WHOSE THAT

IS.

SOME OF YOU PROBABLY KNOW.

IT WILL GET PEOPLE UPSET.

I WILL SIMPLY SAY THIS.

THE WORST FUNDED IS THAT FOR THE

MAJORITY OF OUR EMPLOYEES.

THE MAJORITY OF KENTUCKY'S

RETIREEES WHO ARE PART OF KERS

HAVE A PENSION PLAN THAT ONLY  
HAS TEN CENTS IN IT FOR EVERY

DOLLAR THAT'S OWED.

THAT'S NOT A PENSION SYSTEM.

THAT'S A CHECKING ACCOUNT

ESSENTIALLY AND IT IS ABOUT TO

GO BANKRUPT.

THAT IS A FACT.

THAT'S NOT AN OVERSTATEMENT.

IT IS SO CLOSE TO INSOLVANCY IT



WOULD HAVE BEEN TAKEN OVER LONG  
AGO IF THIS WERE A PRIVATE  
COMPANY.

THE PBCG WOULD HAVE TAKEN THIS  
OVER YEARS AGO.

WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO THE  
PEOPLE OF KENTUCKY AND WE HAD  
BETTER CLEAN IT UP.

THERE HAVE GOT TO BE HARD  
DECISIONS MADE BY THIS BODY, BY  
THE HOUSE AND SENATE, AND I  
ENCOURAGE YOU, PLEASE, BE BOLD AND BE  
STRONG BECAUSE THERE ARE GOING  
TO HAVE TO BE TOUGH DECISIONS  
MADE.

WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION FOR THE  
PEOPLE WHO HAVE WORKED AND  
EXPECT THEIR CHECKS TO KEEP  
COMING TO MAKE SURE THOSE CHECKS  
KEEP COMING.

THAT IS OUR MORAL AND LEGAL  
OBLIGATION AND WE'D BETTER DO  
IT.

WE ARE, AS I MENTIONED EARLIER,  
THE 47th LOWEST LEVEL OF WORKFORCE  
PARTICIPATION IN THE COUNTRY.  
THAT'S UNACCEPTABLE.

WE HAVE 225,000 ABLE-BODIED MEN

AND WOMEN IN KENTUCKY WHO ARE  
NOT LOOKING FOR WORK OR DON'T GO  
TO WORK.

225,000 ABLE-BODIED WORKING AGE  
NOT LOOKING FOR WORK.

YOU CAN MAKE TWICE AS MUCH NOT  
WORKING IN THIS STATE AS YOU CAN  
IN TENNESSEE, FOR EXAMPLE.

THERE WILL BE THOSE, AND I'M  
SURE THERE'S ALREADY PEOPLE  
WRITING THE HEADLINES ABOUT HOW  
WE KEEP COMPARING OURSELVES TO  
OTHER STATES.

GUESS WHAT?

SO DO THE COMPANIES THAT LOOK ABOUT COMING HERE. THE PEOPLE THAT ARE  
CONSIDERING COMING HERE, BOTH MOVING HERE OR MOVING THEIR COMPANIES HERE,  
THEY  
COMPARE TO US OTHER STATES AND  
THEY LOOK AT THESE STATISTICS  
AS WELL.

I GOT A TEXT FROM THE ANOTHER  
GOVERNOR AND I WON'T MENTION THE  
EXACT DIRECTION HE REFERENCED  
BUT HE SAID WE APPRECIATE THAT...  
HE SAID WE LIKED IT A WHOLE LOT  
BETTER WHEN THE PEOPLE -- FILL  
IN THE BLANK DIRECTION - THERE,  
WEREN'T THINKING ABOUT COMPETING  
WITH US.

AND IT WAS SOMEBODY ACTUALLY TO THE SOUTH  
OF US.

AND HE SAID WHEN PEOPLE UP THERE  
WEREN'T THINKING ABOUT COMPETING  
WITH US, WE LIKED IT BETTER.

OTHER STATES ARE MAKING NOTICE  
OF WHAT WE'RE DOING HERE.

WE'VE GOT TO CLEAN THIS UP.

WE CAN'T MAKE IT SO EASY TO NOT  
WORK.

I WANT TO TALK ABOUT THE FACT  
THAT THERE ARE THE A-R-C, WHICH  
TRACKS 13 STATES, THE APPALACHIAN  
REGIONAL CONFERENCE.

I FORGET THE EXACT ACRONYM BUT IT  
BASICALLY COVERS ALL OF THESE  
STATES, 13 DIFFERENT STATES THAT  
HAVE PART OF WHAT'S KNOWN AS THE  
APPALACHIAN REGION.

WE'RE A STATE THAT HAS PART OF  
OUR STATE IN IT AS DO OTHER  
STATES ALL OR PART OF THEIRS.

THERE ARE 82 COUNTIES THAT  
THEY CONSIDER TO BE IN DISTRESS.

37 OF THEM, 45% OF THE TOTAL COUNTIES IN  
THOSE 13 STATES THAT ARE IN  
DISTRESS, 45% OF THEM ARE IN  
KENTUCKY.

THAT'S UNACCEPTABLE.

37 OF THOSE IN-DISTRESS

COUNTIES ARE IN OUR STATE.

THESE ARE THINGS WE'VE GOT TO  
TAKE CARE OF.

WE WILL NEED A SPECIAL SESSION  
FOR TAX AND PENSION SO THAT WILL  
BE COMING.

WE'VE TALKED WITH YOUR  
LEADERSHIP AND WITH THOSE OF YOU IN  
THE HOUSE YOU KNOW THAT IT'S  
COMING. WE WON'T GET IT DONE IN THE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS, BUT IT WILL GET DONE IN  
2017.

WE HEARD THE ROAR OF THE VOTERS.

I TALKED ABOUT IT AFTER THE  
ELECTION.

THE PEOPLE OF KENTUCKY, THOSE OF  
YOU THAT ARE ASSEMBLED HERE,  
THOSE OF YOU THAT ARE WATCHING, YOU  
ASKED FOR CHANGE TO COME, AND  
CHANGE HAS COME.

CHANGE HAS COME IN A SIGNIFICANT  
WAY IN THIS LEGISLATIVE BODY  
JUST IN THE LAST COUPLE OF  
WEEKS, AND IT WILL CONTINUE TO  
COME.

IT'S HUMBLING TO US, IT'S  
INSPIRING TO US THE DEGREE TO  
WHICH YOU OVERWHELMINGLY, THE  
VOTERS, TURNED THIS HOUSE IN

PARTICULAR AROUND.

THOSE FIRST SEVEN BILLS THAT WE MENTIONED A MOMENT AGO, THOSE ARE THE FIRST BILLS EVER IN THE HISTORY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY THAT WERE SIGNED BY A GOVERNOR, A SPEAKER, AND A PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE THAT WERE ALL REPUBLICANS.

IT'S NEITHER HERE NOR THERE WITH RESPECT TO THE PARTY, ALTHOUGH IT'S SIGNIFICANT IN THAT RESPECT, BUT IT'S SIGNIFICANT IN THE FACT THAT AS SO MANY OF YOU DID, YOU VOTED YOUR VALUES AND NOT YOUR PARTY, AND THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE THAT YOU SENT HERE UNDERSTAND THAT THEY HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO YOU.

AND I WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR THE FACT THAT YOU WOULD THANK THEM FOR THE WORK THAT THEY ARE DOING.

I HAVE SAID THAT I WANT US TO BE THE CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE.

I'VE TALKED ABOUT THE REASONS WHY.

I WON'T SAY THAT AGAIN EXCEPT THAT EVERY TIME I'M OUT THERE,

EVERY TIME I MEET WITH A COMPANY  
I MAKE SURE THEY UNDERSTAND WE  
WILL DO WHAT IS NEEDED.

I DON'T WANT TO SINGLE OUT ANY  
PARTICULAR COMPANIES BUT THERE  
ARE SOME COMPANIES SMALL AND  
SOME VERY LARGE THAT HAVE  
RECENTLY DECIDED TO COME HERE

THAT UNDERSTAND WE ARE COMMITTED  
TO DOING WHAT WE CAN, THAT WE  
ARE ENTREPRENEURIAL, THAT WE ARE  
INNOVATIVE, THAT WE ARE  
INVESTING IN OUR INFRASTRUCTURE  
AND WE ARE INVESTING IN  
EDUCATION AND WE ARE INVESTING  
IN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

AND I WILL SAY THIS, EDUCATION  
AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT GO  
HAND IN HAND.

LAST YEAR I HAPPENED TO SINGLE  
OUT A SINGLE DISCIPLINE THAT NO  
PUBLIC UNIVERSITY IN KENTUCKY  
ACTUALLY CONFERS DEGREES IN.

IT HAPPENED TO RHYME WITH  
'SCHMITATURE'.

BUT I WILL SAY THIS, YOU WOULD HAVE THOUGHT BASED  
ON THE REACTION THAT EVERY THIRD  
PERSON

GRADUATING FROM A KENTUCKY  
UNIVERSITY HAPPENED TO HAVE A

DEGREE IN THAT.

I MENTION IT SIMPLY BECAUSE MY  
ARGUMENT THEN IS THE SAME AS IT IS  
NOW.

WE NEED TO USE THE MONEY YOU ALL  
ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR.

ON BEHALF OF OUR TAXPAYERS TO  
INVEST IN EDUCATION WHERE WE CAN  
GET GOOD RETURN ON IT AS  
TAXPAYERS.

INTERPRETIVE THIS AND INTERDISCIPLINARY THAT IS NOT  
WHERE THE JOBS OF THE 21st  
CENTURY ARE.

THEY'RE JUST NOT.

THEY'RE JUST NOT.

AND SO WE ARE GOING TO INVEST  
WHERE WE CAN GET GOOD RETURN ON  
THAT, AND THIS IS SOMETHING THAT  
WE'RE GOING TO SEE FROM OUR  
UNIVERSITIES AS WELL.

WE'RE MOVING TOWARD OUTCOMES  
BASED FUNDING.

THAT WILL BE COMING IN THE YEAR  
AHEAD.

WE'VE GOT TO START TO BE MORE  
COMPETITIVE.

WE NEED TO START REACHING DOWN  
FARTHER INTO OUR HIGH SCHOOLS  
STARTING TO TEACH FISCAL

MANAGEMENT AND FISCAL

DISCIPLINE.

WE NEED TO START TEACHING THE  
VERY THINGS THAT ONCE WERE TAKEN  
FOR GRANTED AND ARE NO LONGER  
AVAILABLE.

WE NEED TO START TEACHING CIVICS.

THESE THINGS ARE GOING TO BE COMING.

YOU WILL SEE LEGISLATION MOVING  
THROUGH THESE BODIES THAT WILL  
HELP US TO EDUCATE PEOPLE BETTER  
AND PREPARE THEM FOR WORK IN THE  
21st CENTURY.

I WANT TO TALK ABOUT A COUPLE

OTHER THINGS REAL QUICKLY.

WE'RE GOING TO ACTUALLY NOT ONLY  
MOVE TO OUTCOMES BASED FUNDING.

THAT'S SOMETHING THAT EVERY ONE

OF OUR UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS

SIGNED OFF ON.

SOME DIDN'T LIKE IT.

IN FACT, NOBODY FULLY LIKED IT AND THAT'S

WHY WE KNOW THAT IT WAS ABOUT AS GOOD

AS WE'RE GOING TO GET.

NOBODY FULLY LOVED THIS

PIECE OF LEGISLATION.

IT WASN'T A PIECE OF

LEGISLATION.

IT WAS PASSED REQUIRING THEM TO



LOOK AT IT.

WE GAVE THEM THE ABILITY TO  
ACTUALLY DETERMINE THE RULES SO  
THAT'S NOW SOMETHING THAT WE'LL  
MOVE LEGISLATIVELY THROUGH THE  
PROCESS.

THEY CAME UP THE WITH RULES.

WE ARE NOT GOING TO LEAD THE  
WITNESS ON THAT ONE.

WE ALLOWED THEM TO COME UP WITH  
SOMETHING THAT THEY ALL AGREED THEY CAN  
TAKE PART IN.

WE'RE NOW GOING TO REWARD OUTCOMES. WE'RE GONNA REWARD THOSE

UNIVERSITIES THAT INVEST IN  
YOUNG PEOPLE IN WAYS THAT ALLOW

THOSE YOUNG PEOPLE TO BECOME

PRODUCTIVE MEMBERS OF SOCIETY.  
CHARTER SCHOOLS ARE COMING TO

KENTUCKY.

I WILL TELL YOU THAT RIGHT NOW.

THEY ARE GOING TO COME TO

KENTUCKY.

AND IT WILL BE GOOD FOR

KENTUCKY.

WE NEED KENTUCKY TO NOT BE ONE

OF SEVEN STATES IN AMERICA

THAT STILL HAS A MONOPOLY ON PUBLIC

EDUCATION DOLLARS BECAUSE WITH

ALL DUE RESPECT WE'RE NOT DOING

AS WELL AS WE COULD BE.

WE'VE GOT GREAT TEACHERS.

WE'VE GOT GREAT ADMINISTRATORS.

WE HAVE GREAT SUPERINTENDENTS

AND PRINCIPALS.

BUT THE REALITY IS THEY'RE

BURIED IN BUREAUCRACY, THEY'RE

BURIED UNDER SUCH AN UNBELIEVABLE

MESS AS IT RELATES TO ALL OF THE

EXTRANEIOUS AUDITING AND TESTING

AND THINGS THAT THEY ARE

REQUIRED TO DO.

THIS HAS GOT TO CHANGE.

AND SO EXPECT IN THE LEGISLATURE

MOVEMENTS IN THE DAYS AND WEEKS

AHEAD THAT YOU WILL SEE MOVEMENT

ON THIS FRONT.

AND I WILL AGAIN LEAVE IT TO

THOSE LEGISLATORS TO DISCUSS IN

COMMITTEE AND THEN IN THESE

BODIES AS WE MOVE FORWARD.

BUT GOOD THINGS ARE COMING.

WE WILL SEE SCHOOL CHOICE COMING

TO KENTUCKY.

WE WILL SEE AN ABOLISHMENT OF

COMMON CORE STANDARDS IN THE

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY.

COMMON CORE WILL BE GONE FROM

KENTUCKY.

[ APPLAUSE ]

THERE'S GOING TO BE GREATER

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR OUR SCHOOLS

AND THAT WILL BE GOOD FOR OUR  
STUDENTS.

ABOVE ALL.

IT WILL BE GOOD FOR THEIR PARENTS

AND IT WILL BE GOOD FOR OUR SCHOOLS AND OUR  
TEACHERS.

WE ARE GOING TO SEE MEDICAL

REVIEW PANELS COMING.

WE'RE GOING TO SEE TORT REFORM  
COMING TO KENTUCKY.

THE EXACT FORM AND FASHION IS TO

BE DETERMINED BY THE HOUSE AND

THE SENATE.

THESE THINGS WILL BE DEBATED.

BUT WE NEED TORT REFORM IN THIS

STATE.

OUR MEDICAL PROFESSION NEEDS IT.

OUR RETAIL PROFESSION NEEDS.

BUSINESS IN GENERAL NEEDS IT.

THE PEOPLE WHO PRODUCE THINGS

AND MOVE THINGS AROUND THE

COMMONWEALTH HAVE BEEN BEGGING

FOR THIS.

WE ARE A STATE THAT IS ALSO VERY

HIGHLY REGULATED.

STUDIES HAVE BEEN DONE BY THE MERCATUS

INSTITUTE THAT SAY THAT WE HAVE

30% MORE REGULATION THAN THE

AVERAGE STATE, THAT WE'RE ONE OF  
THE FIVE MOST HIGHLY REGULATED  
STATES IN AMERICA.

THE REASON I WEAR THIS BUTTON  
AND OTHERS DO AS WELL, I'VE SENT  
ONE TO EVERY SINGLE MEMBER OF  
YOU IN THE HOUSE AND SENATE --  
FEEL FREE TO WEAR THEM, THEY  
MAKE A GREAT CONVERSATION STARTER  
PEOPLE MIGHT ASK YOU TO CUT  
THEIR HAIR.

IT'S A LITTLE PAIR OF SCISSORS  
CUTTING THROUGH RED TAPE.

PEOPLE TRULY AREN'T SURE WHAT IT IS SO  
IT DOES CREATE GOOD  
CONVERSATION.

I'VE PLEDGED TO CUTTING 30% OF  
ALL THE RED TAPE IN THIS STATE  
IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS, AND  
WE'RE GOING TO DO THAT.

WITH YOUR HELP WE'RE GOING TO  
GET IT DONE.

SOME OF IT WILL NEED TO BE DONE  
LEGISLATIVELY, SOME OF IT EXECUTIVELY,  
SOME WILL BE SIMPLY BE DONE BY JUST UPDATING  
THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN NEEDING TO  
GET UPDATED FOR A LONG TIME.

WE TALKED ABOUT PENSION AND TAX  
REFORM.

THEY ARE COMING.

THEY WILL COME IN A SPECIAL  
SESSION.

WORK IS ALREADY BEING DONE  
BEHIND THE SCENES WITH FOLKS.  
PEOPLE IN THE LEGISLATURE,  
PEOPLE NOT IN THE LEGISLATURE,  
PEOPLE IN PRIVATE BUSINESS,  
PEOPLE IN STATE AND PEOPLE  
OUTSIDE OF THE STATE LOOKING AT  
BEST PRACTICES IN OTHER PLACES.

WE DON'T NEED TO REINVENT THE  
WHEEL.

LET'S LOOK AT WHAT WORKS AND  
WHAT DOESN'T WORK.

WHAT OTHERS HAVE TRIED THAT'S BEEN  
SUCCESSFUL, WHAT OTHERS HAVE TRIED THAT'S NOT BEEN  
SUCCESSFUL. WE HAVE GOT TO DO  
THESE TOGETHER.

PENSION AND TAX REFORM HAVE GOT  
TO BE DONE TOGETHER BECAUSE IF  
THEY'RE NOT DONE TOGETHER THIS  
STATE IS GOING TO BECOME  
FINANCIALLY INSOLVENT.

WE HAVE \$82 BILLION IN PENSION  
OBLIGATION, AS I SAID.

WE ONLY TAKE IN 10 TO  
\$11 BILLION A YEAR.

SO EIGHT TIMES WHAT WE BRING IN, IN

ANY ONE YEAR CURRENTLY IS

ALREADY OWED.

IF WE TOOK EVERY CENT WE BROUGHT

IN IN THE NEXT EIGHT YEARS WE

WOULD ONLY GET BACK TO THE TOP

OF A HOLE THAT WE HAVE DUG FOR

OURSELVES.

ONE OF THE THINGS WE'RE GOING TO

HAVE TO LOOK AT IS TAX

EXPENDITURES, AND I WOULD

ENCOURAGE YOU ALL IN THIS BODY

AND I MEAN THIS SINCERELY

THINK BIG, BE BOLD.

THIS IS WHAT YOU WERE ELECTED TO

DO.

THIS IS WHAT THE PEOPLE WANTED

OF US.

IT WILL NOT BE EASY, FRANKLY.

IT WILL NOT MAKE YOU POPULAR

WITH EVERYBODY.

EVERYBODY LIKES THE IDEA OF SPENDING A

LITTLE MORE OF OTHER PEOPLE'S

MONEY, BUT WE HAVE GOT TO MAKE

BOLD, HARD DECISIONS.

THESE TAX EXPENDITURES, MORE

THAN 300 OF THESE DIFFERENT  
LOOPHOLES, WE EXEMPT MORE INCOME

IN KENTUCKY THAN WE TAKE IN.

THAT'S GOING TO HAVE TO CHANGE,

AND I'M NOT TALKING NICKLE-ANTE THINGS... WELL...

THIS TAX IS GOING TO MOVE A  
PENNY HERE AND THIS ONE IS GOING TO  
GO UP A FEW CENTS A GALLON THERE - WHATEVER, NONE OF THIS.  
THESE ARE THINGS THAT MIGHT BE PART OF THE  
CONVERSATION.

BUT I'M TALKING ABOUT  
BRINGING EVERY SINGLE SACRED

COW, THAT PEOPLE THINK CAN'T BE TOUCHED ON THE TAX FRONT, BRINGING THEM ALL OUT  
OF

THE BARN AND SOME OF  
THOSE SACRED COWS ARE GOING TO  
BE RETURNED TO THE BARN AS SACRED

COWS AND SOME OF THEM ARE GOING  
TO BE TURNED INTO HAMBURGER AND  
I'M GOING TO NEED YOUR HELP TO  
MAKE IT HAPPEN.

IT'S GOING TO HAPPEN.

[ APPLAUSE ]

ANOTHER THING I WANT TO SAY  
AND I'LL TAKE THE HEAT FOR IT

AND YOU CAN ALL BLAME ME FOR IT  
IF YOU'D LIKE.

I'LL SAY THIS OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE  
SUPPORTED ME AND HAVE SUPPORTED  
ME THEY WON'T LIKE  
THIS.

THIS IS NOT GOING TO BE A TAX  
NEUTRAL TAX PLAN. IT'S NOT, WE CAN'T AFFORD FOR IT TO BE.  
THAT'S A STRAIGHT UP FACT.

WE CANNOT PAY OFF EIGHT TIMES  
WHAT WE BRING IN IF WE SIMPLY

RESHUFFLE THE DECK.

THIS IS A STATE THAT NEEDS TO  
MOVE ULTIMATELY FROM A  
PRODUCTION BASED TAX ECONOMY TO  
A CONSUMPTION-BASED TAX ECONOMY. WE  
WILL GET RID OF THE INVENTORY  
TAX.

WE WILL GET RID OF THE DEATH  
TAX.

THESE ARE THINGS AMONG OTHERS  
THAT WILL BE GONE.

BUT WE HAVE TO DO THIS AS PART  
OF A BROADER PLAN THAT NOT ONLY  
LOWERS THE OVERALL TAX  
BURDEN, BUT BROADENS IT, MAKES IT MORE FAIR,  
EASIER TO UNDERSTAND, MORE IN  
LINE WITH FEDERAL POLICIES  
BECAUSE OUR STATE HAS ONE OF  
THE MOST CONVOLUTED TAX PLANS AND TAX PROGRAMS  
THAT YOU COULD IMAGINE BUT IT HAS  
TO BE DONE IN A WAY THAT  
ALLOWS US TO BE ABLE TO PAY OFF  
THE OBLIGATIONS THAT WE HAVE.  
THAT IS GOING TO BE THE TASK  
BEFORE EACH AND EVERY ONE OF  
YOU.

PLEASE GET READY.

IT'S GOING TO BE HARD TO DO BUT  
WE CAN DO IT.



CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM IS

COMING.

WE PASSED AN EXPUNGEMENT BILL. WE MENTIONED IT EARLIER.

PEOPLE NOW HAVE A CHANCE TO HAVE THEIR RECORD WIPED

CLEAN AFTER FIVE

YEARS AFTER WAITING A PERIOD OF

TIME AFTER NOT GETTING IN

TROUBLE AFTER PAYING OFF THEIR

OBLIGATION TO SOCIETY.

WE GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO EXPUNGE

THAT FOR A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT

FELONIES.

NOT FOR ALL BUT FOR THOSE WHERE

IT'S APPROPRIATE TO GIVE PEOPLE

A SECOND CHANCE.

WE TALKED ABOUT TAKING OFF THE

REQUIREMENT TO CHECK THE BOX.

THERE IS OTHER LEGISLATION  
MOVING ITS WAY THROUGH THAT WILL

OPEN UP LICENSING AND THINGS OF

THIS SORT TO THOSE TO GIVE THEM

A CHANCE TO GET BACK ON TRACK.

WE OWE PEOPLE THIS.

IT'S GOING TO BE GOOD FOR THEM.

IT WILL BE GOOD FOR SOCIETY.

IT WILL BE GOOD FOR ALL OF

KENTUCKY.

AND IT WILL BE GOOD FOR

TAXPAYERS.

WE'LL GET A BETTER RETURN ON

THAT AS WELL.

I WANT TO JUST SIMPLY CHALLENGE

YOU WITH A COUPLE OF THINGS IN

CLOSING.

LAST YEAR I ASKED YOU TO CONSIDER

READING A BOOK.

IT WAS CALLED 'DREAM LAND' BY A

GUY NAMED SAM QUINONES. IF YOU'VE NOT READ IT, READ THAT BOOK.

IT TALKS ABOUT THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC. SAM QUINONES WROTE THIS BOOK AND IT IS A GOOD ONE.

'DREAMLAND' IT IS CALLED.

BUT I WANT TO GIVE YOU ANOTHER

BOOK TO READ AND I'M GOING TO DO

THIS EVERY YEAR.

I'M GOING TO CHALLENGE TO YOU

READ A BOOK THAT WILL MAKE YOU

THINK ABOUT KENTUCKY IN WAYS YOU SHOULD BE THINKING ABOUT, WHETHER YOU

WANT TO OR NOT BECAUSE FRANKLY

SOME OF THIS STUFF IS HARD

READING.

HERE'S A BOOK THAT A NUMBER OF

YOU HAVE PROBABLY READ.

IT GOT A LITTLE MORE PUBLICITY THAN DID

'DREAMLAND'. AND YET I'LL BET A NUMBER OF YOU HAVEN'T READ IT.

IT'S CALLED "HILLBILLY ELEGY" BY

J.D. VANCE. IT'S A GOOD BOOK, IT'S A GOOD READ.

IT FRANKLY TALKS ABOUT THE CULTURAL

CHALLENGES THAT ARE CHALLENGING

SO MUCH OUR STATE EASTERN

KENTUCKY IN PARTICULAR.

SO PLEASE READ THESE BOOKS.

'HILLBILLY ELEGY'.

IT'S A GOOD READ.

I WILL SAY THIS AND I MEAN IT

SINCERELY FOR YOU PARENTS, ESPECIALLY FOR YOU

HOME SCHOOLERS THAT ARE WATCHING, THERE'S A LOT OF SALTY

LANGUAGE IN THAT BOOK. IT'S VERY TRUE TO LIFE.

ANY OF YOU HAVE SPENT ANY AMOUNT OF TIME IN

EASTERN KENTUCKY WILL RECOGNIZE

THAT WHAT YOU READ IS WHAT YOU

HEAR.

JUST BEAR THAT IN MIND.

PARENT, YOU MIGHT WANT TO READ

IT FIRST.

BUT IT IS A SOBERING AND

THOUGHT-PROVOKING BOOK THAT

NEEDS TO BE READ BY PEOPLE WHO

CARE ABOUT KENTUCKY.

I WANT TO SAY A COUPLE OTHER

THINGS, TOO.

THIS IS A STATE THAT HAS SO MUCH

GOING FOR IT.

WE ARE SO BLESSED.

WE'VE TALKED ABOUT THESE THINGS.

WE ARE GOING TO BECOME THIS HUB

OF EXCELLENCE.

BUT AS SURELY AS I STAND

HERE, AND I WANT THE SUPPORT OF  
THOSE OF YOU IN THIS BODY,  
AND THIS INCLUDES A NUMBER IN  
THE JUDICIARY IN PARTICULAR, I  
WANT TO BE IN KENTUCKY THE  
ABSOLUTE LAST PLACE YOU WANT TO  
LIVE IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE  
SOMEBODY WHO WANTS TO COMMIT  
WELFARE FRAUD.

IF YOU WANT TO TRY TO MILK THE  
SYSTEM AND ABUSE THE SYSTEM AND  
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SYSTEM,  
THIS SHOULD BE THE LAST STATE  
THAT YOU WANT TO LIVE, AND WE'RE  
DONE CLEANING THIS UP IN THE  
NEXT FEW YEARS.

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT IT'S GOING  
TO BE.

IF YOU'RE --

[ APPLAUSE ]

IF YOU'RE A SEXUAL PREDATOR  
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO WANT TO LIVE  
IN KENTUCKY.

IF YOU'RE A DRUG DEALER  
ESPECIALLY SOMEBODY WHOSE NOT  
AN ADDICT BUT IS CREATING ADDICTS YOU  
ARE NOT GOING TO WANT TO LIVE IN  
KENTUCKY.

WE ARE GOING TO HAMMER THAT.

[ APPLAUSE ]

IF YOU'RE SOMEBODY WHO DOESN'T  
RESPECT THE LAW AND RESPECT LAW  
ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND YOU ARE  
TAKING THE LIVES OF THOSE WHO  
ARE PROTECTING AND SERVING US  
AND THE LIVES OF OTHER  
KENTUCKIANS AS WELL, WE ARE  
GOING TO HAMMER YOU AND COME  
DOWN ON YOU AND YOU'RE NOT GOING  
TO WANT TO LIVE IN THE STATE OF  
KENTUCKY.

[ APPLAUSE ]

AND THIS WHERE I ASK IN  
PARTICULAR THOSE OF OUR  
COUNTY ATTORNEYS, AND OTHERS WHO WILL TOUCH ON THIS... IF  
YOU'RE A DEADBEAT DAD YOU MIGHT  
WANT TO THINK ABOUT MOVING TO  
SOMEWHERE OTHER THAN KENTUCKY.

[ APPLAUSE ]

RIGHT NOW KENTUCKY HAS AN  
EMBARRASSING 58% OF MONEYS THAT  
ARE OWED OR ACTUALLY BEING  
COLLECTED.  
58% IS OUR AVERAGE.

AND HERE'S WHAT'S HEARTBREAKING,  
IS THAT THAT'S 40% OF IT THAT  
THE REST OF US ARE PAYING FOR.  
IF YOU'RE HAVING CHILDREN AND

YOU ARE NOT TAKING  
RESPONSIBILITY FOR RAISING THOSE  
CHILDREN FINANCIALLY, SHAME ON  
YOU.

I'LL SAY THAT IT APPLIES MOSTLY  
TO MALES AND I'LL SAY MALES  
BECAUSE THESE ARE NOT MEN.

REAL MEN PAY FOR THEIR CHILDREN.

REAL MEN TAKE

RESPONSIBILITY FOR  
FINANCIALLY SUPPORTING THEIR  
CHILDREN.

[ APPLAUSE ]

THIS IS A HABITUAL PROBLEM AND  
THERE IS SOMETHING THAT IS KNOWN  
AS PEOPLE WHO ARE HABITUAL IN  
THEIR EFFORTS TO AVOID PAYING  
CHILD SUPPORT.

WE ARE GOING TO HAMMER THAT.

RIGHT NOW AS I SAID 58% A  
SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF OUR  
COUNTIES, I THINK 40 SOME ODD  
COUNTIES, ALMOST HALF OF OUR  
COUNTIES ACTUALLY ARE BELOW THAT  
AVERAGE.

I WANT TO SINGLE OUT, TOO, NOT  
TO MAKE YOU FEEL BAD BUT FRANKLY  
I HOPE YOU DO FEEL A  
LITTLE BIT BAD AND I HOPE THE

COUNTY ATTORNEYS THERE WILL DO  
SOMETHING ABOUT THIS BECAUSE IN  
LEE COUNTY AND IN OWSLEY COUNTY  
I KNOW THESE ARE POOR COUNTIES  
I KNOW THEY STRUGGLE WITH SOME OF  
THE OTHER THINGS WE TALKED ABOUT  
BUT THE ACTUAL RATES AT WHICH  
THEY COLLECT FOR THE  
CHILDREN IN THOSE COUNTIES ARE  
34% AND 29%.

34% FOR OWSLEY COUNTY, 29% FOR LEE  
COUNTY.

THAT IS UNACCEPTABLE.

THAT IS INAPPROPRIATE.

AND I'M CALLING ON THE COUNTY  
ATTORNEYS AND OTHERS TO HELP DO

SOMETHING ABOUT THAT.

I WANT TO AT THE SAME TIME

UPHOLD THE VERY BEST EXAMPLE WE  
HAVE, MORGAN COUNTY.

MORGAN COUNTY COLLECTS -- I'M

SORRY.

FORGIVE ME.

BUTLER COUNTY.

LET ME MAKE SURE I'VE GOT THIS  
RIGHT HERE.

I DON'T WANT TO GIVE CREDIT

WHERE -- IT IS MORGAN COUNTY.

MORGAN COUNTY.

78%.

THAT'S NOT 100.

SHOULD BE 100.

BUT HERE'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO ASK.

I'D LIKE TO ASK THAT OUR GOAL A  
YEAR FROM TODAY IS THAT EVERY  
SINGLE COUNTY IS COLLECTING AT  
LEAST 78% OF THE MONEYS THAT ARE  
OWED TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR  
RESPECTIVE COUNTIES.

LET WHAT MORGAN COUNTY IS DOING  
BE THE STANDARD FOR KENTUCKY.

THAT'S A CHALLENGE I WOULD  
LIKE TO THROW OUT THERE.

I ALSO WANT TO CHALLENGE YOU ONE  
OTHER THING.

I WANT TO CHALLENGE YOU TO  
BEAUTIFY YOUR COMMUNITIES.

WE TALKED ABOUT IT.

WE'RE CLEANING UP THIS CAPITAL.

WE'RE CLEANING UP OVERSIGHTS.

WE'RE GOING TO BE CLEANING

UP OUR REST STOPS AND OUR

WELCOME CENTERS BUT I WANT TO

START SOMETHING THAT WE'RE GOING

TO BE TALKING CALLING

BEAUTIFYING THE BLUEGRASS, AND I

HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT THE EXACT

RULES OF IT.



THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR AND I ARE GOING TO BE WORKING ON THIS.

AND WE WILL PROMISE TO COME

AND THROW A PARTY AND A PICNIC FOR WHATEVER

COMMUNITY IS THE WINNER, THE

RULES OF WHICH WILL BE DEFINED.

IF, IN FACT, THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE THAT

WANT TO PARTICIPATE WE'LL

PROBABLY BREAK IT INTO SIZES OF

COMMUNITIES BUT I WANT TO

ENCOURAGE PEOPLE IN YOUR

COMMUNITY FIGURE OUT HOW YOU CAN

BECOME THE MOST BEAUTIFUL

COMMUNITY IN THE

COMMONWEALTH.

HOW ARE YOU GOING TO DO IT?

EVERYBODY TALKS ABOUT FROM  
PIKEVILLE TO PADUCAH.

THERE'S A WHOLE LOT OF

COMMUNITIES IN BETWEEN THOSE AND

EVEN THOSE BEYOND THOSE.

I WOULD ASK YOU, PLEASE, FIND

WAYS TO CLEAN UP YOUR COMMUNITY.

FIND WAYS TO PICK UP TRASH, TO

BEAUTIFY, TO TAKE PRIDE, TO

INSTILL PRIDE, TO BE PROUD OF

WHO WE ARE AS KENTUCKIANS.

WE ARE BLESSED INDEED.

I WANT TO FINALLY SAY ONE OTHER

THING.

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO WANT TO  
TRULY SEE WHAT IS HAPPENING,  
FOLLOW ALONG THROUGH SOCIAL  
MEDIA.

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT TO WHAT NOW  
PASSES FOR TRADITIONAL MEDIA,  
IT'S DYING FOR A REASON.

IT'S DYING AND BECOMING MORE AND  
MORE TABLOID-LIKE FOR A REASON.

IT'S BREATHLESSLY DISCOVERING  
THINGS AND TALKING ABOUT THINGS  
THAT ARE IRRELEVANT WHILE

IGNORING THINGS LIKE MURDER  
RATES, IGNORING THINGS LIKE

FAILING SCHOOLS, IGNORING THINGS  
LIKE DISCRIMINATION SUITS BEING  
FILED AGAINST PEOPLE THAT ARE

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS IN THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY, THINGS

THAT ARE BEING IGNORED WHICH ARE  
ABSOLUTELY INEXCUSABLE ARE BEING

IGNORED BECAUSE WE'RE BREATHLESSLY  
LOOKING AT THINGS THAT ARE  
IDIOTIC.

AND I WOULD CHALLENGE THOSE WHO  
WOULD PURPORT TO BE MEDIA TO  
FOCUS ON THINGS THAT MATTER, TO

ELEVATE KENTUCKY, TO FOCUS ON  
WAYS WE CAN IMPROVE KENTUCKY,

HOW WE CAN BECOME THE BEST

VERSION OF OURSELVES.

YOU WILL SEE ME STARTING TO USE

MORE LIVE FACEBOOK AND OTHER

FORMS OF SOCIAL MEDIA.

YOU CAN TAKE IT WITH WHATEVER

YOU WANT IN TERMS OF BELIEVABILITY OR NOT.

BUT DO YOUR OWN HOMEWORK.

DON'T WAIT UNTIL YOU READ IT

TOMORROW AFTER IT'S ALREADY

HAPPENED.

COMMUNICATE WITH US THROUGH

SOCIAL MEDIA.

COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR

REPRESENTATIVES THROUGH SOCIAL

MEDIA.

CALL THEM.

COMMUNICATE WITH THEM REGULARLY.

EXPECT GOVERNMENT TO WORK FOR

YOU.

IF WE ARE TO BE THE BEST VERSION

OF OURSELVES, IF WE ARE TO BE

THE HUB OF EXCELLENCE IN AMERICA

FOR ENGINEERING AND

MANUFACTURING, IT'S GOING TO

TAKE US DOING SIMPLE THINGS LIKE

LIVING BY THE GOLDEN RULE.

IT'S GOING TO TAKE US TREATING

OTHER PEOPLE THE WAY WE WANT TO

BE TREATED.

IT'S NOT THAT COMPLICATED.

IT'S GOING TO TAKE US CLEANING

UP AFTER OURSELVES, TAKING

PRIDE, CLEANING UP OUR TRASH,

BRINGING GOOD IDEAS FORWARD.

IT'S GOING TO TAKE US DOING THINGS LIKE CUTTING RED

TAPE.

AND IF YOU HAVE IDEAS FOR THAT

GO TO REDTAPEREDUCTION.COM. REDTAPEREDUCTION.COM

GIVE US IDEAS.

WE'RE GOING TO CLEAN THIS STATE

UP.

WE WORK FOR YOU.

THAT'S WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO.

GET OUT THERE.

VOLUNTEER.

TAKE PRIDE IN KENTUCKY AND GOD

BLESS EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU

AND MAY GOD BLESS THE COMMONWEALTH

OF KENTUCKY.

THANK YOU.

[ APPLAUSE ]