



ACTION STEPS

Join us in stopping the passage of the [Safer Kentucky Act \(HB5\)](#), this bill includes multiple policies that increase mass incarceration and further criminalize poverty. It includes provisions to ban camping to directly target folks who are homeless, involuntarily commit people experiencing mental health crises, and create a drug-induced homicide law.

Action Items:

1. **Send a letter from your organization to the bill sponsors** highlighting your concerns with the bill. [Instructions here.](#)
2. **Sign on to our organizational [letter of opposition](#)** that will go to the committee and bill sponsors [here.](#)

Free Birth Certificates for those who are Homeless- [HB100](#)- Gives free Birth Certificates to anyone homeless and born in Kentucky.

1. **Call the legislative Hotline to voice support for this bill.** Have your staff, board, Supporters, volunteers, and guests do the same.
 1. Call the legislative hotline at 1-800-372-7181.
 2. Give your name and information to the call center staff.
 3. Leave a message for all House leadership and members of the state government committee.
 4. Leave a short message. *Sample message: Please vote yes to HB 100*

Ending Source of Income Discrimination Protections- [HB 18](#)- A statewide preemption bill that would roll back our source of income protection that was passed unanimously in [2020](#).

1. [Sign on to our organizational letter of opposition](#)

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, Feb. 7: KY PAR Recovery Day The Rally for Recovery is an annual event organized by people in long term recovery from a substance use disorder, their families, and friends. It is primarily a community building effort; we seek to strengthen the bonds between people in recovery, their families and friends and our community. **Where:** 723 South Brook Street (Store front) **Time:** Arrive at 8 AM & depart at 8:30 AM SHARP **Contact:** Jennifer Twyman, jennifer@vocal-ky.org / 502-599-2778

Tuesday, Feb. 13: Voting Rights Lobby Day We hope you will join Kentuckians For The Commonwealth and our allies for a lobby day and rally focused on restoration of voting rights for former felons! **Where:** 723 South Brook Street (Store front) **Time:** Arrive at 9 AM & depart at 9:30 AM SHARP **Contact:** Jennifer Twyman, jennifer@vocal-ky.org / 502-599-2778

Wednesday Feb. 16: Monthly Membership Meeting @ 4pm - 6pm: Our general membership meetings are where we develop the knowledge, skills, and relationships required to fight for and win the resources and policies ourselves and our loved ones desperately need. **Where:** 723 South Brook Street (Store front) **Contact:** Jennifer Twyman, jennifer@vocal-ky.org / 502-599-2778

Wednesday, Feb.21: Fairness Lobby Day In Kentucky, LGBT people can still be fired from a job, denied a place to live, or kicked out of a restaurant. RALLY for a Statewide Fairness Law! **Where:** 723 South Brook Street (Store front) **Time:** Arrive at 9 AM & depart at 9:30 AM SHARP **Contact:** Jennifer Twyman, jennifer@vocal-ky.org / 502-599-2778

Wednesday, Feb. 28: SJA Lobby Day Join policy and organizing staff in Frankfort for a mini-lobby day focused on the work of ACLU-KY's Smart Justice Advocates. Lawmakers are often influenced by talking to the people they represent. **Where:** 723 South Brook Street (Store front) **Time:** Arrive at 9 AM & depart at 9:30 AM SHARP **Contact:** Jennifer Twyman, jennifer@vocal-ky.org / 502-599-2778

Month in Review

Thanks to our amazing funders, (Names) VOCAL-KY has been able to move into a larger office space that accommodates over 100 people. We've been able to expand our staff and hire 3 full time staff. These individuals all went from Members, Leaders, Grow Team canvassers and now full time staff. Along with a new part time Grow Team Canvasser. Allow me to introduce VOCAL-KY's newest staff members.



Ronnie “Pony” Morris

Moving up to be the houseless and civil rights organizer is a step and a dream that I never thought would have happened in this life. From street living and drug use along with incarceration this is a dream come true. I love my Vocal family and let the fight begin. 700



Brittany Morris

Vocal-Ky has changed my life, it's given me the opportunity to use what I've been through to help other people.



Stephanie Johnson

Nothing worthwhile comes easily. Work, continuous work and hard work, is the only way to accomplish results that last



Boyd English Every single job is a challenge. You are walking into a new set, a new character, creating a world and trying to get comfortable to do your best work
The VOCAL-KY office is now located at 723 South Brook Street. Come by and visit, we would love to see you. Temporary office hours will be Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10am to 6pm.

[House Bill 5 Doubles Down on Ineffective Policies That Will Further Increase Incarceration and Hardship](#)

The House on Thursday passed House Bill 5, a collection of dangerous, tried-and-failed policies that will increase the risk of overdose death, worsen our already globally high incarceration levels, squeeze out funding for investments that actually make our communities safer and further entrench Kentuckians in poverty. Prior to passage, the bill was amended by House Floor Amendment 27, which added even more harmful provisions while making minimal changes to improve the bill.

MORE: Read about the [changes made to HB 5 in House Floor Amendment 27](#).

What We're Reading and Watching

Spectrum News 1: [KY Safety Act](#)

WHAS11: [Crack down on public camping](#)

Kentucky Lantern: [GOP bill stiffening criminal penalties](#)

Spectrum News 1: [Eligible warrants can be resolved through amnesty dockets](#)

WHAS11: [Louisville organization host amnesty docket days to help clear warrants](#)

Wave 3: [How the street camping ban in Safer Kentucky Act would impact Louisville homeless population](#)

Member Spotlight



Marcus Young

Life experiences, the current past and future. I was at St.John's and Pony and Jessica came up to me and told me about VOCAL. We take city problems and address them across our State. My first conference with VOCAL-KY was in DC for the People's Action Movement Assembly. Its most meaningful and willful work and the people doing the work has been impacted by one or more of the 4 issues



Maurice Noe

I'm dealing with the issues that VOCAL-KY works on. When Stephanie and Brittany spoke to me at Franciscans I knew that I was in it for the long run. To be able to educate our lawmakers and get them to understand that we are the people, we are who they are fighting for. One of the best things i've done with VOCAL-KY is go to Frankfurt and advocate against HB 5. To be noticed and to be heard felt amazing. Vocal-KY stands up for the people and it gives me the opportunity to stand up against politicians.