



For Immediate Release

March 13, 2015

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Nonprofits Win in 2015 Legislative Session

(FRANKFORT, Ky.—) Two pieces of legislation critical to Kentucky's nonprofit sector unanimously passed both chambers of the Kentucky General Assembly and now await the Governor's signature.

The first, [HCR 89](#), will create a task force to explore ways to streamline government and nonprofit contracting. The Kentucky Nonprofit Network (KNN) spearheaded this legislation with sponsors, Representative Addia Wuchner (R—Florence) and Representative Arnold Simpson (D—Covington) because national research confirms contracting practices in Kentucky are costly and often duplicative for both nonprofits and government. The task force will examine current practices and propose needed solutions to improve efficiency and save both sectors time and money.

"Kentucky Nonprofit Network is doing important work to advance and strengthen our Commonwealth's nonprofit organizations. I am proud to have worked with them on HCR 89. The creation of this task force will challenge government and nonprofits to be more efficient stewards of taxpayer investments," Wuchner said.

The second, [House Bill 440](#), sponsored by Representative Jody Richards, House Speaker pro tempore (D—Bowling Green), and co-sponsored by Representatives Thomas Kerr (R-Taylor Mill) and Chris Harris (D-Forest Hills), and advocated for by Secretary of State Alison Lundergan Grimes, will implement much needed and long overdue reforms to the laws that govern nonprofits. Sections of this legislation affecting 501 (c)3 nonprofits were developed from recommendations made by a KNN work group. This legislation provides every nonprofit board of directors in Kentucky with the opportunity to take advantage of technology such as email and conference calls, which didn't exist when the laws were written.

"Kentucky's nonprofit entities perform vital functions in our communities, and I am proud that the General Assembly has acted to implement these significant reforms," Grimes said. "I'm grateful to the Kentucky Nonprofit Network for its support...I'm excited to see our efforts pay off."

"Secretary Grimes and I both agreed that it was past time to update the antiquated Kentucky statutes governing nonprofits, so I was proud to carry this important legislation, and I'm excited it was passed by the General Assembly," Richards said.

Kentucky's nonprofit sector is a strong economic engine. One in nine Kentuckians work for a nonprofit, making it the third largest industry in Kentucky and outpacing retail employment.

"Both House Bill 440 and HCR 89 will allow Kentucky nonprofits to do what they do best - serve their communities. Strengthening these nonprofits is why Kentucky Nonprofit Network exists," said Danielle Clore, KNN Executive Director/CEO.

Kentucky Nonprofit Network is the state association of nonprofit organizations working to strengthen and advance the Commonwealth's nonprofit community. With over thirteen years of service, KNN provides a unified public policy voice, professional development opportunities and resources and various membership benefits.

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