



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Andy Beshear
GOVERNOR

Capitol Building, Suite 100
700 Capitol Avenue
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 564-2611
Fax: (502) 564-2517

To our valued state employees:

I recently shared my budget recommendations for 2020-2022 with fellow Kentuckians. In my proposal, I included an across-the-board raise for state employees of 1% in the first year and 1% in the second of this two-year budget cycle.

As public servants, I know you have sacrificed much and suffered through more than a decade of deep cuts. You have gone years without a salary adjustment, often while being asked to take on more responsibilities. I believe this increase is long overdue as the costs of everything from groceries to pharmaceuticals continue to go up.

The budget I proposed not only includes a raise for state employees, it also fully funds your pension plans. By committing to prioritizing the recommended pension contributions year after year, we can protect your retirement and guarantee each of you the solid pension you were promised when you began your career as a public servant.

Each of you works hard on behalf of Kentucky families every day and you deserve to be recognized for your efforts. I wish we could do more, but with the limited resources we have after 14 years of cuts deep into the bone, this is a start.

A budget is not just a spreadsheet – it is a reflection of our values. This is why, along with supporting our state workers, I prioritized education to help break the cycle of poverty for many Kentucky families. The Education First budget includes a pay raise for teachers, \$40 more funding per student, increased funding for textbooks, and directs \$18.2 million to schools for security improvements. The proposal would also ensure a salary increase for state troopers, increase the stipend for law enforcement officers and local firefighters, fully fund Medicaid expansion, and increase funding for our colleges and universities.

I also included funding to hire 350 more social workers and support staff so we can reduce the caseload, fight the rampant abuse and neglect in our state and better protect our children. Our caseworkers, some of whom I talked to this month about the challenges and about their desire to help Kentucky families, have too many cases and that has dire consequences for our kids.

I am committed to ending 14 years of painful cuts and beginning to reinvest in our people.

Thank you for all that you do to support your fellow Kentuckians. From working every day to keep our roads and bridges safe, making sure our children have the support and protection they need, and even helping me craft the very budget I presented to lawmakers, you have my most sincere appreciation for all that you do to keep our state moving forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andy Beshear".

Governor Andy Beshear