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**Catholic Conference of Kentucky Calls for Tax Reform, Securing the Safety Net of Services  
Protecting Vulnerable Persons**

The Catholic Conference of Kentucky today called upon Governor Steve Beshear to include tax reform as one of the issues the Kentucky Legislature will be asked to address in a Special Session. The Commonwealth's projected revenue shortfall, estimated by some to be about \$1 billion for the fiscal year beginning July 1, challenges the safety net of services provided to vulnerable persons.

Executive Director, Robert J. Castagna, issued a statement on behalf of the Conference:

“During this national economic recession negatively affecting almost all states, the Commonwealth of Kentucky is facing a severe revenue shortfall threatening basic services that Kentuckians rely on in daily life.

We call upon the Governor and the Legislature to address this shortfall in a Special Session through enacting tax reform legislation to secure the safety net of essential services. We call for tax reform legislation that is fair, sustainable and provides adequate revenue. We seek sufficient revenue to meet the basic needs of all, especially the poor and vulnerable. We call for a tax system based upon one's ability to pay and that is fair and just in the treatment of the poor.

Faced with the magnitude of the projected budget shortfall, tax reform with additional revenue based upon ability to pay is preferred public policy to budget reductions in essential services, particularly those serving the poor and vulnerable in Kentucky.”

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<b>Most Reverend</b> <b>Joseph E. Kurtz, D.D.</b> Archbishop of Louisville	<b>Most Reverend</b> <b>Roger. J. Foys, D.D.</b> Bishop of Covington	<b>Most Reverend</b> <b>Ronald W. Gainer, D.D.</b> Bishop of Lexington	<b>Very Reverend</b> <b>J. Michael Clark, J.C.L.</b> Diocesan Administrator Diocese of Owensboro	<b>Robert J. Castagna</b> Executive Director
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