

1 A RESOLUTION encouraging Kentucky institutions such as colleges, universities,
2 and hospitals to create tuition benefit, loan forgiveness, or other incentivizing programs in
3 order to improve health care in areas with critical care access and health professional
4 shortages.

5 WHEREAS, critical care access and health professional shortage areas are
6 geographic areas and populations that have too few primary care, dental, and mental
7 health, hospital, and emergency medical providers; and

8 WHEREAS, Kentucky has 127 primary care physicians per 100,000 persons,
9 whereas the national average is 159 primary care physicians per 100,000 persons; and

10 WHEREAS, Kentucky's three medical schools have produced an average of 150
11 graduates per year who enter a residency program in one of the specialties that comprise
12 primary care and of these, only 75-80 are expected to actually practice primary care after
13 completing residency training; and

14 WHEREAS, 16 percent of adults and 13.8 percent of children in Kentucky have
15 asthma; and

16 WHEREAS, 13 percent of adults and an estimated 3,000 children and adolescents
17 in Kentucky have diabetes; and

18 WHEREAS, 39 percent of adult Kentuckians have hypertension; and

19 WHEREAS, the average death rate from cancer is 197 per 100,000 Kentuckians,
20 causing Kentucky to have the highest death rate from cancer in the United States; and

21 WHEREAS, the average death rate from heart disease is 197 per 100,000
22 Kentuckians, placing Kentucky as the state with the seventh highest heart disease death
23 rate in the United States; and

24 WHEREAS, many Kentucky residents are unable to obtain timely and appropriate
25 health care due to shortages of primary health care providers in the state; and

26 WHEREAS, health care provider shortages not only threaten individual health but
27 also cumulatively affect the state's health care costs; and

1 WHEREAS, rural areas of Kentucky, which have been designated by the federal
2 government as medically underserved areas, have been most significantly affected by
3 shortages of primary and behavioral health care providers; and

4 WHEREAS, the increasingly high cost of education for health care professionals
5 binds graduates to a career path that provides sufficient income to repay often exorbitant
6 student loans, and these career paths most frequently lead to professional practice in
7 highly specialized areas of care in urban areas rather than in general practice in rural
8 areas, where the need is greatest; and

9 WHEREAS, counties in the United States with robust primary health care systems
10 have lower health care costs and better patient outcomes than counties with weaker
11 systems;

12 NOW, THEREFORE,

13 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the*
14 *Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

15 ➔Section 1. Kentucky institutions such as colleges, universities, and hospitals are
16 encouraged to create tuition benefit, loan forgiveness, or other incentivizing programs in
17 order to improve health care in critical care access and health professional shortage areas.

18 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the House is directed to transmit copies of this
19 Resolution and its adoption to Representative Kimberly Moser and Representative Joe
20 Graviss.