

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION directing the Program Review and
2 Investigations Committee to study community paramedicine pilot programs in Kentucky
3 and emergency medical services reimbursement concerns related to non-transport
4 patients.

5 WHEREAS, since 2017, the Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services
6 (KBEMS) has approved eight community paramedicine pilot programs throughout
7 Kentucky; and

8 WHEREAS, community paramedicine programs offer either non-urgent, non-
9 scheduled care with a primary focus on correctly navigating low-acuity patients away
10 from urgent resource utilization; or readmission, follow-up care with a primary focus on
11 continued care for an acute event to prevent unnecessary readmission to an inpatient
12 medical facility; and

13 WHEREAS, from June 2017 to May 2018, non-urgent, non-scheduled care pilot
14 programs initiated approximately 2,500 patient encounters, which prevented more than
15 1,500 emergency medical services transports and 1,100 emergency department visits; and

16 WHEREAS, during the same period, readmission, follow-up care pilot programs
17 made nearly 400 initial patient encounters and more than 900 repeat patient encounters,
18 which prevented approximately 130 emergency medical services transports, 200
19 emergency department visits, and 140 hospital readmissions; and

20 WHEREAS, according to the KBEMS, community paramedicine pilot programs are
21 less expensive than ambulance transport services, have shown the potential to reduce
22 emergency department recidivism, and offer significant down-stream cost savings to the
23 entire health care reimbursement system by keeping patients in their homes and
24 preventing emergency department visits and hospital admissions; and

25 WHEREAS, there is currently not state or federal funding available for community
26 paramedicine pilot programs for reimbursement in Kentucky; and

27 WHEREAS, as a result of the lack of reimbursement, the majority of the

1 community paramedicine pilot programs in Kentucky are funded at a loss through local
2 revenue sources; and

3 WHEREAS, in addition to community paramedicine-related services, Medicaid,
4 Medicare, and most private insurance providers in Kentucky do not reimburse ambulance
5 service providers for any treatment that does not conclude in transport – Anthem Blue
6 Cross/Blue Shield is the only private insurance provider in Kentucky that authorizes
7 reimbursement for treatment/no-transport ambulance services; and

8 WHEREAS, from December 2017 to November 2018, ambulance service providers
9 in Kentucky responded to approximately 28,000 traditional emergency medical services
10 calls that did not conclude in transport and for which they were not reimbursed; and

11 WHEREAS, the Diabetes Medical Emergency Response Task Force has
12 recommended that the Legislative Research Commission direct a full review of
13 emergency medical services reimbursement concerns related to non-transport patients and
14 of the community paramedicine pilot programs in Kentucky;

15 NOW, THEREFORE,

16 ***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of***
17 ***Kentucky, the House of Representatives concurring therein:***

18 ➔Section 1. (1) The Legislative Research Commission shall direct the
19 Program Review and Investigations Committee to complete a comprehensive study of
20 community paramedicine pilot programs in Kentucky and other reimbursement concerns
21 related to non-transport patients.

22 (2) In addition to examining outcomes from the eight community paramedicine
23 pilot programs in Kentucky, this study shall also include a review of community
24 paramedicine programs in other states including alternatives for funding, services
25 provided, and oversight.

26 (3) The study shall also examine emergency medical services reimbursement
27 concerns resulting from treatment/no transport unrelated to community paramedicine

1 services.

2 ➔Section 2. The Program Review and Investigations Committee shall report its
3 findings and recommendations to the Legislative Research Commission by December 1,
4 2019.

5 ➔Section 3. Provisions of Section 1 of this Concurrent Resolution to the contrary
6 notwithstanding, the Legislative Research Commission shall have the authority to
7 alternatively assign the issues identified in this Concurrent Resolution to an interim joint
8 committee or subcommittee thereof, and to designate a study completion date.