

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION directing the Department for Medicaid Services to study  
2 the potential impacts of implementing programs similar to the Kentucky Employees'  
3 Health Plan's Diabetes Value Benefit plan and Diabetes Prevention Program for Medicaid  
4 beneficiaries in the Commonwealth.

5 WHEREAS, in State Fiscal Year 2015-2016, nearly 100,000 adult Medicaid  
6 recipients and nearly 3,000 Medicaid recipients under the age of 20 in Kentucky were  
7 diagnosed with diabetes; and

8 WHEREAS, data from the 2017 Kentucky Diabetes Report shows that diabetes is  
9 more common among those with lower incomes and lower levels of education; and

10 WHEREAS, people with diabetes are more likely to have other serious, chronic  
11 medical conditions, including hypertension, high cholesterol, and coronary heart disease;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, in State Fiscal Year 2015-2016, 3,805 Kentucky Medicaid recipients  
14 with a primary diagnosis of diabetes made a total of 5,395 emergency department visits  
15 which resulted in a total of \$2.182 million in Medicaid spending; and

16 WHEREAS, in State Fiscal Year 2015-2016, 21,859 Kentucky Medicaid recipients  
17 with a primary or secondary diagnosis of diabetes were admitted to a hospital and  
18 received inpatient services more than 40,000 times for a total of 204,756 covered hospital  
19 days which resulted in a total of \$199 million in Medicaid spending; and

20 WHEREAS, diabetes has the third highest overall cost of common chronic  
21 condition among the Kentucky Medicaid population with total expenditures of \$283.69  
22 million in State Fiscal Year 2015-2016; and

23 WHEREAS, in Kentucky diabetes is the fifth-leading cause of death by disease and  
24 the state ranks fourth in the nation for highest diabetes mortality rate; and

25 WHEREAS, people with diabetes have medical expenses approximately 2.3 times  
26 higher than those who do not have diabetes; and

27 WHEREAS, in 2013 the Kentucky Employees' Health Plan (KEHP) implemented

1 the Diabetes Prevention Program which is a year-long educational and lifestyle training  
2 program certified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that is  
3 offered in both face-to-face classroom settings and online; and

4 WHEREAS, KEHP's Diabetes Prevention Program participants, on average, exceed  
5 CDC goals for weight loss, regular physical activity, and A1C levels thereby reducing  
6 their risk for developing diabetes; and

7 WHEREAS, in 2016 KEHP implemented the Diabetes Value Benefit plan which  
8 provides plan members who have been diagnosed with diabetes with access to all  
9 necessary diabetes testing supplies and diabetes-related prescription drugs free of charge,  
10 or in the case of some nongeneric prescriptions with a significantly reduced co-pay; and

11 WHEREAS, according to KEHP, the Diabetes Value Benefit plan has resulted in  
12 increased diabetes medication adherence rates which have produced reductions in overall  
13 medical costs, the average number of non-diabetes related prescriptions per patient, the  
14 number of doctor's office visits, the number of emergency department visits, the number  
15 of hospital admissions, and the length of hospital stays; and

16 WHEREAS, despite increased prescription costs, KEHP estimates that the Diabetes  
17 Value Benefit plan has produced a total medical cost savings in excess of \$10.5 million  
18 since 2016; and

19 WHEREAS, the Diabetes Medical Emergency Response Task Force has  
20 recommended that the General Assembly adopt a joint resolution instructing the  
21 Department for Medicaid Services to study the potential impacts of implementing  
22 programs similar to the Diabetes Prevention Program and Diabetes Value Benefits plan  
23 offered by KEHP and to provide the results of that study to the Interim Joint Committee  
24 on Health and Welfare and Family Services during the 2019 interim;

25 NOW, THEREFORE,

26 ***Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

27 ➔Section 1. The Department for Medicaid Services shall conduct a study of the

1 potential impacts of implementing programs similar to the Kentucky Employees' Health  
2 Plan's Diabetes Value Benefit plan and Diabetes Prevention Program for Medicaid  
3 beneficiaries in the Commonwealth. Impacts studied shall include but not be limited to  
4 the estimated cost of such programs, the health benefits such programs may afford  
5 Medicaid beneficiaries, and any potential financial savings that may be achieved by such  
6 programs.

7       ➔Section 2. The Department for Medicaid Services shall submit a written report  
8 of its findings from the study required by Section 1 of this Resolution to the Legislative  
9 Research Commission's Interim Joint Committee on Health and Welfare and Family  
10 Services by November 1, 2019.

11       ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this Resolution to  
12 Governor Matthew G. Bevin, 700 Capital Avenue, Suite 100, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601;  
13 Adam Meier, Secretary of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, 275 East Main  
14 Street, Frankfort, Kentucky 40621; and Carol Steckel, Commissioner of the Department  
15 for Medicaid Services, 275 East Main Street, Frankfort, Kentucky 40621.