

1 A RESOLUTION recognizing March 2019 as Neuromyelitis Optica Awareness
2 Month.

3 WHEREAS, Neuromyelitis Optica is a rare autoimmune disorder in which the
4 immune system cells and antibodies primarily attack the optic nerves and spinal cord.
5 This disorder is also known as Neuromyelitis Optica Spectrum Disorder, as well as
6 Devic's Disease, according to the Mayo Research Center; and

7 WHEREAS, Neuromyelitis Optica can lead to inflammation, pain, loss of vision in
8 one or both eyes, paralysis or paraparesis of a limb or limbs, loss of sensation, problems
9 with bladder retention and bowel function, intractable nausea and vomiting, loss of color
10 vision, and intractable hiccups; and

11 WHEREAS, the prevalence and incidence of Neuromyelitis Optica is unknown but
12 it is known to be more common in women than men, to occur in all parts of the world,
13 and to possibly be overrepresented in some non-European populations including Africans,
14 East Asians, and Latin Americans; and

15 WHEREAS, the onset of Neuromyelitis Optica can occur at any age in children, as
16 young as 3 years, and adults, as old as 90 years, but appears most often between the ages
17 of 40 and 50 years; and

18 WHEREAS, early diagnosis of Neuromyelitis Optica is critical, and if untreated can
19 lead to devastating and irreversible effects; and

20 WHEREAS, there is no cure for Neuromyelitis Optica, but with early detection and
21 medical treatment, individuals can live a fulfilling life; and

22 WHEREAS, it is important to improve public awareness of Neuromyelitis Optica,
23 so that diagnosis and treatment can occur as soon as possible; and

24 WHEREAS, healthcare professionals, researchers, private philanthropies, and
25 parent advocacy groups collaborate to provide hope and help to support patients and
26 families affected by Neuromyelitis Optica while making vital contributions to the
27 ongoing search for a cure;

1 NOW, THEREFORE,

2 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of*
3 *Kentucky:*

4 ➔Section 1. The Senate of the Commonwealth of Kentucky recognizes the month
5 of March 2019 as Neuromyelitis Optica Awareness Month and honors those searching for
6 a cure to this disease.

7 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
8 Resolution to Senator Robin Webb.