

CHAPTER 21**(HCR 141)**

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging awareness by educators and the retail community of the special access needs of those living with Crohn's disease.

WHEREAS, Crohn's disease is a chronic disorder that causes inflammation of the digestive or gastrointestinal tract; and

WHEREAS, Crohn's disease, and a related disease, ulcerative colitis, are the two main disease categories that belong to a larger group of illnesses call inflammatory bowel disease; and

WHEREAS, irritable bowel disease impacts 1.4 million patients per year in the U.S., at an annual cost of approximately \$2 billion per year; and

WHEREAS, approximately 30,000 new cases of irritable bowel disease are diagnosed every year; and

WHEREAS, irritable bowel disease is primarily a disease affecting young people and those in the prime of their life; and

WHEREAS, children with inflammatory bowel disease miss school activities and do not have the appropriate access to restrooms during school hours; and

WHEREAS, inflammatory bowel disease patients are at a high risk of developing colorectal cancer; and

WHEREAS, the symptoms of Crohn's disease and inflammatory bowel disease present a barrier to individual freedom, happiness, and productivity; and

WHEREAS, because those with one of these diseases often have an urgent need to use a restroom, Crohn's disease and irritable bowel disease can have implications for employment, social interactions, and self image;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

Section 1. The Department of Education should work with local school systems to ensure that educators are aware of the impact that living with Crohn's disease and irritable bowel disease has on students with the condition. Educators also should be aware of the special need for access to restrooms by students with the disease in order to ensure that their educational attainment is not disrupted.

Section 2. The retail community also should be aware of the special needs of people living with this condition and the potential need for access to facilities.

Approved March 19, 2007.