

**CHAPTER 39**  
**( HCR 114 )**

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging greater awareness of the need to use specially designed medical alert bands by persons using blood thinners to prevent fatal head injuries.

WHEREAS, millions of blood thinners, or anti-coagulants, are prescribed for a variety of medical conditions in the United States; and

WHEREAS, blood thinners are vital to maximizing the effectiveness of many medical treatments and surgical procedures; and

WHEREAS, even minor head injuries can turn serious rapidly, especially when a person is using a blood thinner; and

WHEREAS, there may be no external physical symptoms when an epidural hemorrhage occurs reducing blood flow to the brain; and

WHEREAS, health care providers, pharmacies, patients, and caregivers are often unaware of the dangers associated with the use of blood thinners and any kind of head injury; and

WHEREAS, the American Heart Association, the Brain Injury Association, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are among the many groups urging health care providers to recognize the need for medical alert bands and urging patients to wear those bands; and

WHEREAS, immediate medical care after an accident is more likely and can save the lives of people using blood thinners if they are wearing a specially designed medical alert band; and

WHEREAS, the medical alert bands will be easily available and affordable through the Shannon Alert Website and use of medical alert bands by people using blood thinners would be greatly increased if they were available in the future for free with prescriptions for blood thinners; and

WHEREAS, Shannon Elizabeth Mudd, 17, who was on blood thinners for treatment of cancer fell and hit her head, but was not taken to hospital immediately and died four weeks later; and

WHEREAS, the life of Shannon Elizabeth Mudd may have been saved if the need for emergency care because of her use of blood thinners had been known; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the Shannon Alert is to strongly encourage the use of specially designed medical alert bands for persons using blood thinners and to raise awareness of the need for immediate medical care of persons wearing these bands;

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. Both the Kentucky Senate and the House of Representatives strongly urge greater awareness of the need to use specially designed medical alert bands by persons using blood thinners to prevent fatal head injuries, and the need for immediate medical care for persons using blood thinners who experience even a minor head injury. The General Assembly encourages health care providers and pharmacists to strongly recommend that persons prescribed blood thinners wear medical alert bands and educate patients, caregivers, and health care providers about the need for immediate medical care for persons using blood thinners who experience even a minor head injury.

➔Section 2. A copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to Angela Mudd, 321 Clover Cove Drive, Shepherdsville, Kentucky 40165.

**Signed by Governor March 16, 2011.**