

A RESOLUTION to encourage the Cabinet for Health and Family Services and the General Assembly to analyze and revise practices, procedures, administrative regulations and state laws related to foster care and adoption in the Commonwealth.

WHEREAS, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services reports that as of March 2016, there are over 7,800 children in out-of-home care in Kentucky and that over 2,200 of those children have a goal of adoption; and

WHEREAS, these Kentucky children average more than three moves to different placements, which include returns to the homes they were first removed from and additional foster care placements, while they are in out-of-home care; and

WHEREAS, according to the Cabinet for Health and Family Services the average length that a Kentucky child is in out-of-home care is over two years, and this mirrors the national average; and

WHEREAS, research shows that the best interests of a child are served when the child is in a non-permanent home for the least amount of time possible;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

➔Section 1. The House of Representatives recognizes that children in the Commonwealth who have been removed from their permanent homes are some of the most vulnerable citizens in Kentucky.

➔Section 2. The House of Representatives also recognizes that the longer a child does not have a permanent home the more at risk that child becomes to not have the needed stability to become his or her best self.

➔Section 3. The House of Representatives encourages the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to analyze and revise practices, procedures, and administrative regulations related to foster care and adoption in Kentucky.

➔Section 4. The House of Representatives also encourages the Program Review

and Investigations Committee of the Kentucky General Assembly to analyze the practices, procedures, administrative regulations, and state laws related to foster care and adoption in Kentucky and to develop a report to offer recommendations related to revised practices, procedures, administrative regulations, and state laws related to foster care and adoption in Kentucky.