

A RESOLUTION honoring Representative Tom Burch for his 30 years of service as Chair of the Health and Welfare Committee.

WHEREAS, Representative Tom Burch was born in Louisville, Kentucky, on July 19, 1931; and

WHEREAS, a proud veteran of the United States Navy and the Navy Reserve, Representative Tom Burch graduated from Bellarmine University and retired after 40 years of service from General Electric; and

WHEREAS, Representative Tom Burch began his service to the Kentucky House of Representatives in 1972. Serving from 1972 until 1975, he was reelected in 1978 and continues to represent his constituents in the 30th District and the people of this Commonwealth with dignity, respect, and compassion; and

WHEREAS, Representative Tom Burch has served as the Chair of the House Health and Welfare Committee since 1985. During those three decades he has passed legislation to encourage human organ donations, to require family life and parenting education in grades K-12, to support the provision of protective services to abused and neglected children, and to provide safe havens and support services for abandoned infants. In 2000, Representative Burch passed House Bill 706, which improved the quality of child care and expanded health services to at-risk children; in 2002, he passed House Bill 69, which requires every employee in a long-term care facility to be vaccinated against the flu and other pneumococcal infections; and in 2007, he passed the "Boni Bill," a piece of legislation in honor of a social worker from Henderson County who was killed during a home visit; and

WHEREAS, Representative Tom Burch has been rightfully honored for his service to this body. He is the recipient of the Kentucky Association of Homes for Children's "Circle of Love" Award, the Legislator of the Year Award, the Legislation on Behalf of Victims of Domestic Violence Award, the Outstanding Legislator Award from the Kentucky Welfare Reform Coalition, the Mental Health Association of Kentucky Award,

the Nettie Award for his efforts to combat HIV, the Kentucky Child NOW Destiny Award, the American Heart Association Outstanding Legislator Award, the Paul Mason Legislative Advocate for Children Award, and many other commendations and recognitions; and

WHEREAS, Representative Tom Burch is duly honored by this body for his service to the Commonwealth of Kentucky, his exemplary tenure as Chair of the Health and Welfare Committee, and for all that he has done for his constituents and the people of Kentucky during his years of service to the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, in so doing the members honor Representative Tom Burch's wife, Patty, his children, Tommy, Terri, Kevin, David, and Bonnie, and his beloved grandchildren and great-grandchildren for the support they have given him over the years and for the inspiration they provide for him on a daily basis;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

➔Section 1. The members of the House of Representatives hereby honor Representative Tom Burch for his 30 years as Chair of the Health and Welfare Committee, commend him for all he has done for public health and well-being, and grant him best wishes as he continues to do the business of the people.

➔Section 2. When the House of Representatives adjourns this day, it does so in honor of Representative Tom Burch.

➔Section 3. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Representative Ruth Ann Palumbo for delivery.