

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the Governor to request the Secretary of
2 the United States Department of Health and Human Services to designate people with
3 intellectual and developmental disabilities as a medically underserved population in the
4 Commonwealth of Kentucky.

5 WHEREAS, the federal government defines "medically underserved populations"
6 according to a formula that weighs a population's lack of primary care providers, its
7 experience with poverty, its increased infant mortality, and its percentage of people age
8 65 and older; and

9 WHEREAS, as a population, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities
10 meet most of these criteria; and

11 WHEREAS, research shows that individuals with intellectual and developmental
12 disabilities experience significant health disparities, poorer health, poorer health
13 outcomes, higher prevalence of adverse, chronic, and secondary conditions, a lack of
14 access to care, higher poverty rates, and increased mortality; and

15 WHEREAS, the issue lies in the fact that the designation as a medically
16 underserved population requires that the group occupies the same neighborhood,
17 community, census tract, or geographic area; and

18 WHEREAS, this requirement prevents individuals with disabilities from receiving
19 medically underserved population designation because 40 years of civil rights advocacy,
20 anti-discrimination laws, and court decisions have been dedicated to their integration into
21 their communities throughout the country; and

22 WHEREAS, designation as a medically underserved population allows individuals
23 access to a multitude of programs, services, funding streams, and benefits at the federal,
24 state, and local levels; and

25 WHEREAS, specifically, the designation can offer eligibility to apply for special
26 federal funding, grants, and waivers; grants from the federal government, state
27 governments, private foundations, and nongovernmental organizations that give funding

1 preferences to those working with this population; loan repayment programs and higher
2 reimbursement rates for providers serving this population; and funding of targeted
3 research that focuses on this population; and

4 WHEREAS, consequently, the lack of a medically underserved population
5 designation excludes individuals with disabilities from countless programs, services,
6 funding streams, and benefits; and

7 WHEREAS, most of the requirements for this designation date back to the 1960s
8 and 1970s; however, in 1986, Congress added a provision that allows a governor to
9 request the designation of a population within his or her state from the Secretary of the
10 Department of Health and Human Services under certain circumstances, a process known
11 as the Governor's Exceptional Medically Underserved Population; and

12 WHEREAS, this process allows designation for unique circumstances and
13 populations that do not fit the conventional definition or rating system for the
14 determination of medically underserved populations; and

15 WHEREAS, a medically underserved population designation would be a significant
16 step towards addressing the unmet health needs in this population and would officially
17 recognize people with disabilities as stakeholders in their own healthcare, entitled to
18 concrete actions to decrease their health disparities, improve their health, and reduce
19 barriers to their healthcare;

20 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

23 ➔Section 1. The General Assembly acknowledges the significant health
24 disparities experienced by individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and
25 recognizes the benefits that could be realized with federal designation as a medically
26 underserved population.

27 ➔Section 2. The General Assembly strongly urges the Governor to request the

1 Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services to designate
2 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities as a medically underserved
3 population in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

4 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to send a copy
5 of this Resolution to Lee Specialty Clinic, 4501 Louise Underwood Way, Louisville, KY
6 40216, for delivery.