

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION recognizing the suffering and anguish
2 experienced by women and families who learn during pregnancy that their unborn child
3 has a life-limiting condition which could result in the death before or shortly after birth,
4 and the importance of perinatal palliative care and neonatal palliative and hospice care in
5 providing support, information, and education for these women and families.

6 WHEREAS, perinatal palliative care and neonatal palliative and hospice care are
7 innovative and compassionate models of support for parents who choose to continue their
8 pregnancies following a prenatal diagnosis indicating that their unborn child has a life-
9 limiting condition and might die before or shortly after birth; and

10 WHEREAS, through advances in medical testing and diagnostic technology a
11 growing number of women and families find themselves in this heartbreaking situation
12 each year; and

13 WHEREAS, palliative and hospice care providers and comprehensive
14 multidisciplinary care teams have developed wrap-around services including case
15 management, counseling, and individualized birth plans, which provide substantial
16 support to women and families in their special time of need; and

17 WHEREAS, this specialized support is provided from the time of diagnosis through
18 the baby's birth and death, thereby helping parents embrace whatever life their baby might
19 be able to have through assistance in making medical decisions, developing specialized
20 birth plans, creating memories and keepsakes, and planning memorial services if desired;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, the information and support services currently available to grieving
23 expectant parents about perinatal palliative care and neonatal palliative and hospice care
24 are limited and not easily accessible; and

25 WHEREAS, providers and families must be connected in an efficient and effective
26 manner so that citizens of the Commonwealth can utilize the resources available to them;

27 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

3 ➔Section 1. The General Assembly hereby recognizes the extreme pain, suffering,
4 and anguish experienced by women and families who learn during pregnancy that their
5 unborn child has a life-limiting condition which could result in the death of the child
6 before or shortly after birth, or that their child could have a significantly shortened
7 lifespan related to a terminal condition.

8 ➔Section 2. The General Assembly hereby recognizes the importance of
9 connecting grieving women and families with perinatal palliative care and hospice
10 practitioners.

11 ➔Section 3. The General Assembly hereby urges all hospitals and clinics offering
12 obstetric services, obstetric practices, and alternative birthing centers to provide or make
13 referrals for perinatal palliative care and neonatal palliative and hospice care in the
14 instance of a diagnosis that a pregnancy is incompatible with life or that an unborn child
15 has a life-limiting condition that may result in death shortly after birth or a significantly
16 limited life expectancy.

17 ➔Section 4. The General Assembly hereby urges palliative and hospice care
18 providers to establish or expand perinatal palliative and neonatal palliative care and
19 hospice programs.

20 ➔Section 5. The General Assembly hereby urges perinatal palliative and neonatal
21 palliative care and hospice providers to provide anticipatory support and counseling to
22 patients and families before, during, and after delivery through physical, emotional, and
23 spiritual support.

24 ➔Section 6. The General Assembly hereby urges perinatal palliative and neonatal
25 palliative care and hospice care providers to include coordination of care between the
26 obstetric and neonatal care providers, hospital staff, clinic staff, the patient, and the
27 family of infants with a terminal diagnosis.

1 ➔Section 7. The General Assembly hereby urges perinatal palliative and neonatal
2 palliative care and hospice care providers to include assistance with the creation of a
3 personalized birth plan, designed around the parents' wishes for the labor and delivery
4 experience and care of their baby at birth, and to assist in the planning of a memorial
5 service if desired.

6 ➔Section 8. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a
7 copy of this Resolution to Representative Addia Wuchner.