

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging Congress and the President of the United
2 States to enact a long-term reauthorization of the Children’s Health Insurance Program.

3 WHEREAS, the Children’s Health Insurance Program, also known as CHIP, is a
4 state-federal partnership that provides a critical pathway for families with modest means
5 to obtain health care coverage for their children; and

6 WHEREAS, CHIP provides health coverage to children whose families earn too
7 much for them to qualify for Medicaid and cannot obtain affordable family coverage
8 through their employer or the Federal Health Insurance Marketplace; and

9 WHEREAS, federal CHIP funds, in combination with matching state funds, help
10 provide coverage to nearly nine million children in the United States, including over
11 92,000 children in the Commonwealth; and

12 WHEREAS, the CHIP program has helped to reduce the national uninsured rate
13 among children to five percent, well below the nearly 11 percent uninsured rate among
14 nonelderly adults; and

15 WHEREAS, in 1997, Congress first created the State Children’s Health Insurance
16 Program, the precursor to CHIP, with bipartisan support, and the program has continued
17 to enjoy broad support from the public and elected officials from all states and major
18 political parties; and

19 WHEREAS, the most recent reauthorization of CHIP, in 2015, extended the
20 program for only two years, and Congress allowed it to expire on September 30, 2017;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, since the expiration of the federal program’s authority, Kentucky has
23 lost its annual allotment of almost \$268 million, and like other states is maintaining its
24 program with unspent allotments, which are insufficient to operate the program for more
25 than a few months; and

26 WHEREAS, Kentucky expects its unspent funding to last through February 2018,
27 while many other states are anticipating that their funding will be expended even more

1 quickly; and

2 WHEREAS, states cannot easily adapt to irregular federal funding streams, as they
3 need time to plan programs and budgets, notify families and other stakeholders, make
4 changes to eligibility systems, and train eligibility workers; and

5 WHEREAS, a complete expiration of CHIP would also impose new financial costs
6 on states, which are required by federal law to continue certain children's Medicaid
7 coverage that is supported with CHIP funds, even if those CHIP funds cease to be
8 provided by the federal government; and

9 WHEREAS, there is legislation currently under consideration in both houses of
10 Congress to reauthorize CHIP for an additional five years, but differences in the two
11 versions of the legislation and other political disagreements make enactment of such
12 legislation uncertain; and

13 WHEREAS, it is therefore fitting and proper, and in the interests of the residents of
14 Kentucky, for the Kentucky General Assembly to respectfully urge the United States
15 Congress and the President of the United States to enact a long-term reauthorization of
16 the Children's Health Insurance Program;

17 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

20 ➔Section 1. The General Assembly respectfully urges the United States Congress
21 and the President of the United States to enact a long-term reauthorization of the
22 Children's Health Insurance Program.

23 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives shall transmit a copy of
24 this Resolution to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States
25 House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the United States House of
26 Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Minority Leader of
27 the United States Senate, and each member of Kentucky's delegation to the United States

1 Congress.