

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION recognizing the need to lower the rate of
2 cesarean delivery in the Commonwealth.

3 WHEREAS, a cesarean delivery or surgical birth is an extraordinary major
4 abdominal surgical procedure that has saved many lives all over the world; and

5 WHEREAS, cesarean surgery is currently the most common major surgical
6 procedure performed in hospitals in the United States, with the total United States
7 cesarean delivery rate reaching 32 percent of all births in 2017, rising 60 percent from the
8 most recent low of 20.7 percent in 1996, according to the most recent data from the
9 Kentucky Hospital Association and the Centers for Disease Control; and

10 WHEREAS, Kentucky's rate of cesarean delivery is the seventh highest in the
11 nation, standing at 34.6 percent of all births as of 2016 and is as high as 40 percent of all
12 births in some Kentucky hospitals; and

13 WHEREAS, while cesarean delivery can be life-saving for the fetus, the mother, or
14 both, the rapid increase in the rate of cesarean births without evidence of concomitant
15 decreases in maternal or neonatal morbidity or mortality raises significant concern that
16 cesarean delivery is overused; and

17 WHEREAS, increasing rates of cesarean delivery are one possible factor leading to
18 the increase in the national maternal mortality rate from 18.8 in 2000 to 23.8 per 100,000
19 births in 2014; and

20 WHEREAS, the World Health Organization found that cesarean section rates
21 higher than 10 percent are not associated with reductions in maternal and newborn
22 mortality rates and in the United States, and the United States Office of Disease
23 Prevention and Health Promotion *Healthy People 2020* objectives include a 10 percent
24 reduction in cesarean delivery for first time births, from 26.5 percent to 23.9 percent; and

25 WHEREAS, planned cesarean delivery is associated with significantly higher risk
26 of maternal severe morbidity and mortality compared with planned vaginal delivery; and

27 WHEREAS, every subsequent pregnancy following surgical birth carries increased

1 risks of maternal and newborn mortality and morbidity, including placenta abnormalities
2 such as placenta accreta, a life-threatening condition with a rate that has grown along with
3 the rate of cesarean surgery; and

4 WHEREAS, according to the National Institutes of Health and the American
5 Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, vaginal delivery after cesarean delivery is a
6 safe and reasonable option yet according to the Centers for Disease Control, Kentucky's
7 rate of vaginal delivery after cesarean delivery is the 10th lowest in the United States with
8 over 91 percent of mothers who have given birth by cesarean going on to deliver all
9 subsequent pregnancies by cesarean section, often due to hospital policies that prohibit
10 vaginal delivery; and

11 WHEREAS, the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists has
12 advised that increasing women's access to nonmedical interventions during labor such as
13 education and support, continuous labor support from a doula, and limiting interventions
14 during labor and birth; and

15 WHEREAS, midwifery care may reduce the rates of surgical birth but is not easily
16 accessible for most Kentuckians at this time; and

17 WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Kentucky is the largest payer of birthing costs
18 through Medicaid; and

19 WHEREAS, cesarean delivery costs a significant amount more than vaginal
20 delivery;

21 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

24 ➔Section 1. The General Assembly recognizes the benefits that lowering the rate
25 of cesarean delivery may provide to the lives of Kentuckians regardless of previous
26 cesarean history, and affirms that the Commonwealth should work to ensure that barriers
27 to vaginal delivery are removed.

1 ➔Section 2. The General Assembly encourages all state agencies and providers of
2 maternity care to strongly support and encourage nonoperative vaginal delivery by
3 striving to provide resources and information that are shown by evidence to reduce the
4 rate of cesarean delivery.

5 ➔Section 3. The General Assembly strongly encourages all state agencies that
6 administer programs providing maternal or child health services to provide information
7 about how to reduce the likelihood of cesarean delivery to program participants, and to
8 encourage and support program participants' access evidence-based care that may
9 decrease their risk of cesarean delivery.

10 ➔Section 4. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to deliver a copy of this
11 Resolution to Senator Julie Raque Adams.