

1 A RESOLUTION honoring Danny Waits for his 874K Coalition Rally speech.

2 WHEREAS, the United 874K Coalition is composed of almost 80 organizations
3 representing individuals with disabilities and their families, advocates, providers, and
4 concerned citizens focusing on the needs of more than 874,000 Kentuckians; and

5 WHEREAS, on January 31, 2018, 874K held its annual Advocacy Event, a rally
6 supporting and celebrating Kentuckians with disabilities, and their families; and

7 WHEREAS, Danny Waits, who suffers from a condition known as Apert syndrome,
8 gave a speech at this event that was indicative of his personal strength and of the
9 unwavering resolve of the human spirit; and

10 WHEREAS, in his speech, Danny Waits noted that his parents both passed away
11 when he was young. In an attempt to help Danny live a more fulfilling life, his guardian
12 contacted Communicare Inc., a mental health provider based in Bardstown, Kentucky,
13 that offers services for the disabled; and

14 WHEREAS, Danny Waits continued to say that with the support of Communicare,
15 he was able to find employment at Nelson County Industries, and later at Best Buy. Mr.
16 Waits told the audience at the rally, "That was five years ago. Since then my sole source
17 of income has been my job. I no longer receive disability. I am no longer on Medicaid
18 because I pay for my own health insurance. Something else wonderful happened...three
19 years ago, I was able to purchase my own house on my own"; and

20 WHEREAS, this honorable body commends Danny Waits on this day for his
21 beautiful testimony during the 874K Coalition Rally. In so doing, it acknowledges the
22 hard work and selflessness of Kentucky's mental health and disabilities advocates, and
23 thanks the community of health care providers and mental health centers for what they do
24 each day for the most vulnerable members of our Commonwealth;

25 NOW, THEREFORE,

26 ***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of***
27 ***Kentucky:***

1 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate hereby honor Danny Waits for his 874K
2 Coalition Rally speech.

3 ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor of Danny
4 Waits.

5 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
6 Resolution to Senator Jimmy Higdon for delivery.