

1 A RESOLUTION encouraging an investigation by the United States Attorney
2 General and the Kentucky Attorney General into the fundraising tactics of the Humane
3 Society of the United States.

4 WHEREAS, a mission of the Office of the United States Attorney General and the
5 Office of the Attorney General of the state of Kentucky is to protect consumers from
6 fraudulent, unfair, or deceptive business practices; and

7 WHEREAS, promotional materials of the Humane Society of the United States
8 (HSUS) are full of dogs and cats, giving the impression that this is the primary focus of
9 HSUS; and

10 WHEREAS, HSUS runs no pet shelters and, according to the HSUS president, only
11 20 percent of the organization's budget goes to companion animal issues; and

12 WHEREAS, the CEO of HSUS has admitted that "I think there is some confusion
13 among the general public, and I think there's occasional confusion with donors"; and

14 WHEREAS, the Attorneys General of several states have already issued warnings to
15 consumers regarding solicitations and advertisements by the Humane Society of the
16 United States due to the concern that HSUS fundraising activities give consumers the
17 impression their donations are assisting state and local animal shelters when in fact the
18 donations go toward unrelated efforts such as lobbying in other states and at the federal
19 level; and

20 WHEREAS, one of the society's key contract direct-mail fundraisers was recently
21 fined 25 million dollars over deceptive fundraising activities by the Attorney General of
22 New York; and

23 WHEREAS, according to the society's tax returns, only one percent of the funding
24 raised by HSUS is given to pet shelters; and

25 WHEREAS, ensuring that consumers are protected from false and deceptive
26 charitable organizations is of paramount importance within the state of Kentucky and
27 throughout the United States;

1 NOW, THEREFORE,

2 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of*
3 *Kentucky:*

4 ➔Section 1. The Attorney General of the United States and the Attorney General
5 of the state of Kentucky are encouraged to investigate the fundraising activities of the
6 Humane Society of the United States and to end that society's fraudulent and misleading
7 practices perpetrated on consumers.