

1 A RESOLUTION recognizing the formation of the Engage and Empower Caucus.

2 WHEREAS, the Engage and Empower Caucus held its first organizational meeting
3 on February 7, 2019, and will publicly announce its formation on February 12, 2019; and

4 WHEREAS, the Engage and Empower Caucus will provide a voice to Kentuckians
5 with disabilities, and will address issues those citizens face every day; and

6 WHEREAS, the goal of the Engage and Empower Caucus is to produce a balanced
7 and diverse caucus that is not dictated by political party affiliation and that offers
8 perspectives from differing ideologies, genders, and geographical location; and

9 WHEREAS, the Engage and Empower Caucus will be co-chaired by two legislative
10 members, one from each political party; and

11 WHEREAS, the mission of this bi-partisan caucus is to establish a direct
12 communication link between advocacy leaders who represent the interest of Kentuckians
13 with disabilities and legislators who have a sincere passion in listening and responding to
14 their concerns; and

15 WHEREAS, almost 30 percent of adults in Kentucky are living with some type of
16 disability; and

17 WHEREAS, disability costs in healthcare expenditures total \$5.8 billion per year in
18 Kentucky; and

19 WHEREAS, the Engage and Empower Caucus will address these concerns while
20 assuring equitable access in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act; support
21 and assist programs that provide affordable access to basic service for Kentuckians with
22 disabilities, particularly those who are unable to work; and support and assist programs
23 that increase employment opportunities for those people with disabilities who are able to
24 work, thus promoting self-confidence and providing pathways to personal achievement
25 and self-sustainability;

26 NOW, THEREFORE,

27 ***Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the***

1 *Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

2 ➔Section 1. The House of Representatives hereby recognizes the formation of the
3 Engage and Empower Caucus, and duly commends each member for his or her advocacy
4 on behalf of Kentuckians with disabilities.

5 ➔Section 2. When the House of Representatives adjourns this day, it does so in
6 honor of the Engage and Empower Caucus.

7 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a
8 copy of this Resolution to Representative Al Gentry.