

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.