

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION directing the Secretary of Personnel to remove the
2 midpoint pay restrictions for the nursing staff of veterans centers operated by the Office
3 of Kentucky Veterans Centers.

4 WHEREAS, the Office of Kentucky Veterans Centers is committed to serving
5 Kentucky veterans by fostering independence, preserving dignity, and providing
6 compassionate care; and

7 WHEREAS, Maintaining adequate staffing for these veterans homes has remained a
8 constant struggle due to salary discrepancies between veterans center nursing staff and the
9 private sector, with private sector nurses making as much as seven dollars (\$7) per hour
10 more than veterans center nurses; and

11 WHEREAS, it costs the Department of Veterans Affairs approximately twenty
12 thousand dollars (\$20,000) to hire and train a new registered nurse every time a nurse
13 leaves for the private sector; and

14 WHEREAS, many veterans cannot be treated due to lack of adequate staffing. Most
15 of the veterans centers are at approximately fifty-five percent (55%) of maximum
16 capacity due to the inability to hire and keep nursing staff; and

17 WHEREAS, being able to hire staff at a competitive wage would provide better
18 care for our veterans and allow the veterans centers to operate at capacity;

19 NOW, THEREFORE,

20 ***Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

21 ➔Section 1. The Secretary of Personnel is directed to remove the midpoint salary
22 restriction for nursing staff hired by the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs and the
23 Office of Kentucky Veterans Centers.

24 ➔Section 2. The Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to
25 the Secretary of Personnel of the Commonwealth of Kentucky at 501 High Street, 3rd
26 Floor, Frankfort, Kentucky.