

1 A RESOLUTION declaring 2020 as the Year of the Eye Exam.

2 WHEREAS, the number of Kentuckians with impaired vision, including blindness,
3 could more than double over the next three decades if appropriate preventive steps are not
4 taken; and

5 WHEREAS, eye diseases, vision loss, and eye disorders create an estimate two
6 billion dollar economic burden for Kentuckians; and

7 WHEREAS, 16 percent of Americans with no new symptoms or vision problems
8 were diagnosed with a new eye condition during a routine eye exam, including glaucoma,
9 macular degeneration, and diabetic retinopathy—all of which can result in blindness; and

10 WHEREAS, it is widely recognized by healthcare professionals that an eye
11 examination provides the best window to assess the body's vascular health condition and
12 many previously undiagnosed systemic conditions, such as diabetes, can be found; and

13 WHEREAS, from 2000 to 2017, diagnosed diabetes in Kentucky adults nearly
14 doubled, with the Commonwealth ranking seventh highest in the United States for
15 diabetes; and

16 WHEREAS, making a comprehensive eye exam with primary eye-care providers
17 part of annual healthcare routines is the simplest step people can take to protect vision
18 and ensure early diagnosis of and treatment for visual system diseases such as glaucoma,
19 a leading cause of blindness; and

20 WHEREAS, the Kentucky Optometric Association and its member doctors of
21 optometry serve as gatekeepers to the overall health of their patients; and

22 WHEREAS, the year 2020 creates the unique opportunity to encourage citizens to
23 understand the importance of eye health and take care of their vision and health by
24 making an appointment for an in-person, comprehensive eye exam;

25 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

1 ➔Section 1. The Senate declares 2020 as the Year of the Exam, and urges all
2 citizens to observe this special celebration by paying special attention to personal eye and
3 vision care and the needs of those they cherish.

4 ➔Section 2. The Senate further asks doctors of optometry, other healthcare
5 professionals, business and civic leaders, educators, and the media to unite in an effort to
6 broaden the citizens of Kentucky's understanding of eye health and safety for themselves
7 and their families.

8 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
9 Resolution to the Kentucky Optometric Association, P.O. Box 572, Frankfort, Kentucky
10 40602.