

1 A RESOLUTION to recognize the importance of access to safe, affordable,
2 culturally appropriate, and nutritious food and its beneficial impacts on the health of
3 Kentuckians and Kentucky's agricultural economy.

4 WHEREAS, Kentucky is a recognized leader in creating healthy food access
5 programs; and

6 WHEREAS, Kentucky families struggle to access safe, affordable, culturally
7 appropriate, and nutritious food; and

8 WHEREAS, 14.9 percent of households in Kentucky are food insecure, indicating
9 reduced quality, variety, or desirability of available foods resulting in disrupted eating
10 patterns or reduced intake; and

11 WHEREAS, in many Kentucky communities, at least 25 percent of the population
12 participate in federally funded nutrition incentive programs; and

13 WHEREAS, one in every five adults in Kentucky reports difficulty getting
14 affordable, fresh produce where they live; and

15 WHEREAS, in 56 Kentucky counties, greater than 10 percent of the population has
16 low access to grocery stores, and in nine counties almost one-third of the population has
17 low access to grocery stores; and

18 WHEREAS, in 2013, 25 percent of Kentucky adults ate vegetables once a day or
19 less, and 46 percent ate fruit once a day or less; and

20 WHEREAS, Kentuckians suffer from nutrition-related diseases; 36.6 percent of
21 adults in Kentucky are obese; 17 percent of Kentucky youth ages 2-19 are obese; 39.4
22 percent of adults in Kentucky have hypertension; and 13.8 percent of adults in Kentucky
23 have heart disease; and

24 WHEREAS, heart disease is the leading cause of death and diabetes is the seventh
25 leading cause of death in Kentucky; and

26 WHEREAS, the number of Kentucky farms and acres of farmland are decreasing,
27 but small family farms remain a strong cornerstone of Kentucky agriculture; and

1 WHEREAS, Kentucky is home to 75,100 farms, a decline from 85,500 farms in
2 2013, and 12.9 million acres or 51 percent of the state is farmland, a decline from 14
3 million acres of farmland in 2013; over 60 percent of Kentucky farms are small family-
4 run operations; and

5 WHEREAS, direct market sales are hugely beneficial to Kentucky farm businesses;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, farmers receive only 14.6 cents of every food dollar spent in chain
8 retailers but 100 percent of every food dollar at farmers' markets; and

9 WHEREAS, there are over 160 farmers' markets with more than 2,600 vendors in
10 114 counties across the state, 85 of which accept Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
11 Program (SNAP)/Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT), 106 of which accept Senior Farmers'
12 Market Nutrition Program vouchers, and approximately 90 of all counties accept
13 Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Farmers'
14 Market Nutrition Program vouchers; there were over \$10.2 million in reported farmers'
15 market sales for 2018; and

16 WHEREAS, nutrition incentive programs—including Kentucky Double Dollars;
17 Kentucky-Grown Vegetable Incentive Program (K-VIP); Farms to Food Banks; Fresh
18 Stop Markets; and FARMacy and FreshRx for Mothers on Medicaid (MOMs) voucher
19 programs—encourage people to seek out affordable, local, and healthy foods; and

20 WHEREAS, the Kentucky Double Dollars program provides an incentive for
21 customers to buy more fruits and vegetables at the market by matching the value of a
22 customer's federal nutrition benefits (SNAP, WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program,
23 Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program) when used to purchase fresh, local produce;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, Kentucky Double Dollar Programs have shown substantial success
26 during the past two years, and have garnered widespread support from community
27 members, Managed Care Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations, and local and

1 state government; and

2 WHEREAS, in 2018-2019, the \$232,000 in healthy food access incentives were
3 matched \$1 for \$1, resulting in more than \$464,000 going directly to Kentucky's small-
4 scale and family farmers; and

5 WHEREAS, in 2019, K-VIP increased access to Kentucky-grown fruit and
6 vegetables for kids through the Summer Food Service Program and Children and Adult
7 Care Food Program At-Risk, with 124,586 pounds of produce purchased from 59 farms
8 and eaten by kids in 36 counties; and

9 WHEREAS, the Farms to Food Banks program helps farmers recover losses for
10 produce that would otherwise not be sold because of cosmetic imperfections or
11 overproduction; farmers receive a reimbursement that helps cover the cost of picking,
12 packing, and transporting fresh produce from the field to a food bank where it is
13 distributed free-of-charge to hungry Kentuckians; and in 2019, the Farms to Food Banks
14 program distributed 2.9 million pounds of produce to 120 Kentucky counties, with an
15 average \$1,273 payment to 336 farmers; and

16 WHEREAS, the Fresh Stop Markets are community-driven fresh food pop-up
17 markets that have been providing locally grown food shares to families on a sliding-scale
18 basis since 2009; and in 2019, Fresh Stop Markets purchased \$150,000 of vegetables,
19 fruits, and eggs from farmers and sold 7,152 shares to Kentucky families; and

20 WHEREAS, since 2015, the Eastern Kentucky FARMacy program has provided
21 qualified families or individuals with "prescriptions" from healthcare providers for fresh,
22 local fruits and vegetables redeemable at participating farmers' markets; and

23 WHEREAS, nearly \$63,000 in produce prescription dollars were spent in 2019, and
24 FARMacy sales accounted for an average of 59 percent of all participating market sales;
25 and

26 WHEREAS, the FRESH Rx for MOMS program increases the consumption of
27 fresh, local produce by limited income pregnant women; and in the 2018 pilot FRESH Rx

1 for MOMs program, 32 participants redeemed \$7,681 or 93 percent of tokens;

2 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

5 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate recognize that innovative programs such
6 as those aforementioned which prioritize access to safe, affordable, culturally appropriate,
7 and nutritious food are vital to the health of Kentucky's families, farms, and economy.

8 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
9 Resolution to Senator Stan Humphries.