A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION to create a legislative workgroup on returning
women and mothers to work who are unemployed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

WHEREAS, according to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, the labor
force participation rate in Kentucky has been dropping steadily since 1999; and
WHEREAS, in 1999 the Kentucky labor force participation rate was 64.1 percent
and it is currently at 57.5 percent; and
WHEREAS, even before COVID-19, the workforce participation rate was low
among women in comparison to their male counterparts; and
WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic pushed the unemployment rate to an all-time
high of 16.6 percent in April 2020, and the labor force participation rate dropped to a
historic low of 52.5 percent; and
WHEREAS, of the unemployment insurance claimants that filed for benefits as a
result of COVID-19, women are the majority of all claimants in Kentucky; and
WHEREAS, women are the majority of workers in the private industry most
heavily affected by the pandemic and are largely underrepresented in insulated industries;
and
WHEREAS, women are experiencing record unemployment in Kentucky, in terms
of both number of workers and the percentage of overall unemployment claimants for
which they account; and
WHEREAS, mothers experience the longest stints on unemployment assistance
with an average of 13.1 weeks, and nonretired women cite childcare as their most
common reason for not working; and
WHEREAS, the number of nonretired women in Kentucky currently not working in
order to meet household childcare needs exceeds 100,000; and
WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic is disproportionately hurting Kentucky
women and mothers;
NOW, THEREFORE,
Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Senate concurring therein:

Section 1. The Legislative Research Commission shall establish the Returning Women and Mothers to Work workgroup to investigate the impact of COVID-19 on women and mothers in Kentucky.

Section 2. The duties of the workgroup shall include but not be limited to investigating:

(1) The full impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women in the workforce;

(2) The full impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mothers in the workforce;

(3) Barriers to successful re-entry to the workforce; and

(4) Strategies to return unemployed women and mothers to the workforce.

Section 3. The workgroup shall be composed of the following members, with final membership of the workgroup subject to the consideration and approval of the Legislative Research Commission:

(1) Four Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, with equal minority and majority representation; and

(2) Four Senators appointed by the President of the Senate, with equal minority and majority representation.

Section 4. The workgroup shall meet for the 2021 Interim of the General Assembly and shall make findings and recommendations on the appropriate measures the state can take to return women and mothers to the workforce to the Legislative Research Commission by December 1, 2021.

Section 5. The executive branch of government, including the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board, shall promptly provide necessary data, research, and other requested information to assist the workgroup in the performance of its duties.

Section 6. Provisions of this Resolution to the contrary notwithstanding, the Legislative Research Commission shall have the authority to alternatively assign the
issues identified herein to an interim joint committee or subcommittee thereof, and to designate a study completion date.