

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

3           WHEREAS, according to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, the labor  
4 force participation rate in Kentucky has been dropping steadily since 1999; and

5           WHEREAS, in 1999 the Kentucky labor force participation rate was 64.1 percent  
6 and it is currently at 57.5 percent; and

7           WHEREAS, even before COVID-19, the workforce participation rate was low  
8 among women in comparison to their male counterparts; and

9           WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic pushed the unemployment rate to an all-time  
10 high of 16.6 percent in April 2020, and the labor force participation rate dropped to a  
11 historic low of 52.5 percent; and

12           WHEREAS, of the unemployment insurance claimants that filed for benefits as a  
13 result of COVID-19, women are the majority of all claimants in Kentucky; and

14           WHEREAS, women are the majority of workers in the private industry most  
15 heavily affected by the pandemic and are largely underrepresented in insulated industries;  
16 and

17           WHEREAS, women are experiencing record unemployment in Kentucky, in terms  
18 of both number of workers and the percentage of overall unemployment claimants for  
19 which they account; and

20           WHEREAS, mothers experience the longest stints on unemployment assistance  
21 with an average of 13.1 weeks, and nonretired women cite childcare as their most  
22 common reason for not working; and

23           WHEREAS, the number of nonretired women in Kentucky currently not working in  
24 order to meet household childcare needs exceeds 100,000; and

25           WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic is disproportionately hurting Kentucky  
26 women and mothers;

27           NOW, THEREFORE,

1 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the*  
2 *Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Senate concurring therein:*

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

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

- 8       (1) The full impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women in the workforce;
- 9       (2) The full impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mothers in the workforce;
- 10       (3) Barriers to successful re-entry to the workforce; and
- 11       (4) Strategies to return unemployed women and mothers to the workforce.

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

- 15       (1) Four Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
16 Representatives, with equal minority and majority representation; and
- 17       (2) Four Senators appointed by the President of the Senate, with equal minority  
18 and majority representation.

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

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

26       ➔Section 6. Provisions of this Resolution to the contrary notwithstanding, the  
27 Legislative Research Commission shall have the authority to alternatively assign the

- 1 issues identified herein to an interim joint committee or subcommittee thereof, and to
- 2 designate a study completion date.