

1 A RESOLUTION affirming support for services and providers addressing the
2 domestic violence, sexual violence, and child abuse public health crisis.

3 WHEREAS, the Kentucky Constitution guarantees all citizens the right to enjoy and
4 defend their rights and liberty; and

5 WHEREAS, the Kentucky Constitution guarantees all citizens the right to seek and
6 pursue their safety and happiness; and

7 WHEREAS, victims of abuse experience threats to the free exercise of these rights
8 by their abusers; and

9 WHEREAS, every Kentuckian is impacted by domestic violence, sexual violence,
10 and child abuse; and

11 WHEREAS, the cumulative societal, familial, and individual damage caused by
12 domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse is one of the most prevalent public
13 health issues facing the Commonwealth; and

14 WHEREAS, domestic violence creates costs which exceed \$5.8 billion nationally
15 each year, including nearly \$1 billion in lost productivity at work; and

16 WHEREAS, Kentucky's state-funded domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers,
17 and child advocacy centers served over 393,000 individuals in the past decade, including
18 over 52,000 children; and

19 WHEREAS, the majority of domestic, sexual, and child abuse is either
20 underreported or not reported at all; and

21 WHEREAS, Kentucky has the highest rate of child abuse in the nation, with such
22 staggering statistics as: one in ten children being sexually abused before their 18th
23 birthday; 26% of 10th graders who reported experiencing sexual victimization having
24 attempted suicide; and almost 29,000 children being involved in reports of family
25 violence in 2019 alone; and

26 WHEREAS, domestic violence is a form of gender-based violence which women
27 experience with greater frequency, severity, and impacts; and

1 WHEREAS, 45% of Kentucky women have experienced sexual violence, physical
2 violence, or stalking at the hands of an intimate partner at least once in their lifetime, half
3 of all female murder victims are killed by an intimate partner, and 32 Kentucky women
4 were killed by an intimate partner between September, 2019, and December, 2020; and

5 WHEREAS, 39% of Kentucky women and 18.3% of Kentucky men reported being
6 violated by sexual contact violence at some point in their lives, and 70% of survivors of
7 sexual violence experience moderate to severe distress and are at a greater risk for
8 trauma-related health problems, including depression, post-traumatic stress disorder,
9 suicidal ideation, sleep disorders, and eating disorders; and

10 WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic presented new challenges for both survivors
11 experiencing abuse and the providers who serve them; and

12 WHEREAS, domestic violence, sexual violence, and child abuse cannot be
13 prevented until it is openly recognized and addressed; and

14 WHEREAS, the causes, prevalence, and effects of abuse on our public systems and
15 families must be brought into public focus;

16 NOW, THEREFORE,

17 ***Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the***
18 ***Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

19 ➔Section 1. The House of Representatives does hereby affirm a commitment to
20 defending and championing the rights, liberty, safety, health, and wellbeing of survivors
21 of violence and abuse as well as their families and communities.

22 ➔Section 2. The House of Representatives resolves to prioritize the public health
23 issue of domestic violence, sexual violence, and child abuse by providing safe and
24 affirming care for all survivors throughout all state systems, and by working together to
25 prevent and ultimately eliminate all forms of abuse and violence throughout the
26 Commonwealth.

27 ➔Section 3. When the House of Representatives adjourns this day, it does so in

1 honor of Kentucky's network of domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers, and child
2 advocacy centers; the courage and resilience of all survivors of abuse in the
3 Commonwealth; and in solemn memory of those who did not survive their encounters
4 with abuse.

5 ➔Section 4. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a
6 copy of this Resolution to Representative Nancy Tate.