

1 A RESOLUTION urging the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to establish
2 policies and reports related to children in out-of-home care during the COVID-19
3 pandemic.

4 WHEREAS, in April 2020 over 10,000 children were in the custody of the Cabinet
5 for Health and Family Services, which is the highest amount in the last six years; and

6 WHEREAS, as of February 2021, 9,156 children are in the custody of the Cabinet
7 for Health and Family Services; and

8 WHEREAS, efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19 have impacted the child
9 welfare system in many ways, including limiting in-home visits, limiting out-of-state
10 travel, and increasing the use of virtual court hearings; and

11 WHEREAS, the changes, enacted by the Cabinet, yielded positive and negative
12 consequences for all parties involved in caring for children in the state's custody; and

13 WHEREAS, the Department for Community Based Services within the Cabinet for
14 Health and Family Services has reported a decrease in entries into and exits from out-of-
15 home care resulting from COVID-19;

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 requests that the Cabinet for Health
20 and Family Services not establish any new requirement related to out-of-state travel for
21 children in out-of-home care during any state of emergency declared by the Governor in
22 response to the COVID-19 virus or any mutated strain of the COVID-19 virus that is any
23 more restrictive than requirements that were in place on February 1, 2020.

24 ➔Section 2. The House of Representatives requests that the Cabinet for Health
25 and Family Services create a report detailing any efficiencies discovered in the Kentucky
26 child welfare system due to procedural and process changes created during the COVID-19
27 pandemic.

1 ➔Section 3. The House of Representatives requests that the Cabinet for Health
2 and Family Services submit the report to the Governor, the Legislative Research
3 Commission, the Child Welfare Oversight and Advisory Committee, and the Interim
4 Joint Committee on Health, Welfare, and Family Services by August 31, 2021.

5 ➔Section 4. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a
6 copy of this Resolution to Eric Friedlander, the Secretary of the Kentucky Cabinet for
7 Health and Family Services, 275 E. Main St. 5W-A Frankfort, Kentucky 40621.