

1 A RESOLUTION establishing the official Kentucky Mental Health Flag.

2 WHEREAS, mental health is essential to everyone's overall health and well-being;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, mental illness can take a number of forms, including anxiety,
5 attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, autism spectrum disorder, bipolar disorder, eating
6 disorders, depression, obsessive-compulsive disorder, personality disorders, post-
7 traumatic stress disorders, and schizophrenia; and

8 WHEREAS, the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) estimates that less
9 than 20% of children with diagnosable mental health problems receive the treatment they
10 need; and

11 WHEREAS, NAMI estimates that there is often a ten year gap between the onset of
12 symptoms of mental illness and a proper diagnosis for children; and

13 WHEREAS, early treatment can help prevent more severe, lasting problems as a
14 child grows up, including preventing incidences of criminal diversion, drug and alcohol
15 abuse, and suicide; and

16 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicate that suicide is
17 the second leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 10 and 34, and
18 the fourth leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 35 and 54; and

19 WHEREAS, people with mental illnesses face both the challenges of their disease
20 and the social stigmas associated with having the disease; and

21 WHEREAS, social stigmas associated with mental illness create barriers to access
22 and quality care for mental illness; and

23 WHEREAS, Dr. Christopher Peters of The Bingham Childhood Clinic states that
24 creating a recognizable and pleasant symbol which relates to and carries a message for
25 mental health is an important step in undoing the negative effects of a stigma; and

26 WHEREAS, to create this recognizable and pleasant symbol to undo the negative
27 effects of a stigma, The Pete Foundation for Depression Prevention collaborated with

1 over 100 Louisville mental health organizations/care providers, artists, designers,
2 advocates, and community members to create the Mental Health Flag to convey support
3 for all efforts in mental health; and

4 WHEREAS, those collaborators' goal is for the flag to become a global symbol for
5 supporting all mental health initiatives and all those affected by mental illness; and

6 WHEREAS, the Mental Health Flag incorporates green to symbolize mental health
7 awareness, yellow to symbolize happiness and hope, and a curved shape to represent both
8 embracing those suffering from mental illness and an acceptance of mental health as a
9 community focus; and

10 WHEREAS, the Mental Health Flag incorporates different shades of color from
11 dark green to yellow to represent both a personal journey from a dark place to a happy
12 place and the community's collective efforts to bring the topic of mental health out of the
13 darkness and into the light;

14 NOW, THEREFORE,

15 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of*
16 *Kentucky:*

17 ➔Section 1. The Senate hereby designates the Mental Health Flag developed
18 through collaborative efforts of The Pete Foundation for Depression Prevention and other
19 agencies as the official mental health flag for the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

20 ➔Section 2. The Senate encourages citizens, government agencies, schools,
21 businesses, and public and private institutions to commit to increasing awareness and
22 understanding of mental health.

23 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
24 Resolution to Senator Julie Raque Adams.