

1 A RESOLUTION designating February 2024 as American Heart Month in order to  
2 raise awareness about cardiovascular disease and the importance of knowing one's  
3 cholesterol.

4 WHEREAS, the American Heart Association defines cholesterol as a waxy, fat-like  
5 substance circulating in the blood; and

6 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) identifies two  
7 types of cholesterol, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C) and high-density  
8 lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-C); and

9 WHEREAS, according to the CDC, nearly 94 million adults in the United States  
10 have high cholesterol; and

11 WHEREAS, heart disease results in 386 deaths per 100,000 adults age 35 and over  
12 in Kentucky; and

13 WHEREAS, inherited risks of heart disease include familial hypercholesterolemia  
14 (FH) and elevated Lipoprotein (a) (Lp(a), which can be detected and treated early; and

15 WHEREAS, FH is a common, life-threatening genetic disorder affecting the body's  
16 ability to remove LDL-C and, if left untreated, leads to early heart attack and heart  
17 disease; and

18 WHEREAS, patients with FH or elevated cholesterol levels may need treatment  
19 that includes statins and lipid-lowering medications; and

20 WHEREAS, heart disease disproportionately affects minority populations. In men  
21 and women, low HDL cholesterol prevalence was higher in non-Hispanic adults than in  
22 non-Hispanic white, black, and Asian adults, and in men, prevalence was higher in non-  
23 Hispanic white and Asian adults than in non-Hispanic black adults; and

24 WHEREAS, data from the 2019 Kentucky Behavioral Risk Factor Survey indicated  
25 12.1 percent of Kentuckians were told they have heart disease, compared with the  
26 national average of 8.4 percent. Both black and white Kentuckians reported near equal  
27 rates of 12 percent and 12.3 percent; and

1           WHEREAS, February is designated as American Heart Month by the National  
2 Institutes of Health, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, to raise awareness of heart  
3 disease, cholesterol and the importance of screening and treatment; and

4           WHEREAS, the LDL-C Action Summit, a consortium of the nation's leading  
5 cardiovascular stakeholder groups, seeks to cut cardiovascular events in half by 2030;  
6 and

7           WHEREAS, the CDC's Million Hearts program is a national initiative to prevent  
8 one million heart attacks and strokes between 2022 and 2027;

9           NOW, THEREFORE,

10 ***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of***  
11 ***Kentucky:***

12           ➔Section 1. The Senate does hereby recognize February 2024 as American Heart  
13 Month to raise public awareness of heart disease and cholesterol-related illnesses,  
14 including Familial Hypercholesterolemia and elevated Lipoprotein (a).

15           ➔Section 2. The Senate supports raising awareness of heart disease, cholesterol,  
16 and lipid-lowering treatments to improve cardiovascular health in the Commonwealth of  
17 Kentucky.

18           ➔Section 3. The Senate urges the Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Program  
19 within the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to dedicate resources to addressing  
20 cardiovascular disease and improved cholesterol screenings.