

1           A RESOLUTION honoring Darlene Thomas upon receiving the 2024 Jean  
2 Sabharwal Award from Bluegrass Families First.

3           WHEREAS, each year, Bluegrass Families First recognizes an individual who has  
4 demonstrated passionate advocacy for Lexington's children and families; and

5           WHEREAS, Bluegrass Families First bestows the Jean Sabharwal Award to an  
6 individual who has dedicated his or her professional career to its mission to promote and  
7 provide opportunities for high quality early childhood development, education, health,  
8 and human services for Lexington families in their progress towards self-sufficiency; and

9           WHEREAS, Bluegrass Families First has chosen Darlene Thomas to be the  
10 recipient of the 2024 Jean Sabharwal Award; and

11           WHEREAS, Darlene Thomas has served as founder and executive director of  
12 GreenHouse17 since 2004. GreenHouse17, which serves 17 central Kentucky counties, is  
13 an advocacy agency committed to ending intimate partner abuse and its impact on  
14 families and the community. GreenHouse17 gives survivors the unique opportunity of  
15 living and working in the fresh air of its 40-acre farm; and

16           WHEREAS, Darlene Thomas has been responsible for direct service,  
17 comprehensive program development, and community engagement for social change  
18 efforts in her 33-year career as an advocate for survivors of power-based violence; and

19           WHEREAS, Darlene Thomas provides leadership for multiple community  
20 collaborators and committees; provides expert testimony on legal cases; facilitates  
21 professional development training for local, state, national, and international forums; and  
22 provides consultations for organizations who are seeking strategies to reimagine their  
23 service; and

24           WHEREAS, under Darlene Thomas' leadership, GreenHouse17 programs and  
25 services have received statewide and national awards for innovation including:  
26 Commerce Lexington Nonprofit Community Impact Award, National Shelter of the Year  
27 Purple Ribbon Award, Theresa Mary Byron Foundation Celebrating Solutions Award,

1 the Kentucky Nonprofit Network Innovative Award, the Center for Nonprofit Excellency  
2 Pyramid Award for Social Innovation, and was a Partnership for Freedom/Reimagine  
3 Opportunity national finalist. Ms. Thomas currently serves as past president and  
4 legislative chair for the ZeroV, Kentucky's domestic violence coalition;

5 NOW, THEREFORE,

6 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of*  
7 *Kentucky:*

8 ➔Section 1. The Senate hereby honors Darlene Thomas upon receiving the 2024  
9 Jean Sabharwal Award from Bluegrass Families First.

10 ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor of Darlene  
11 Thomas.

12 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this  
13 Resolution to Senator Reginald Thomas for delivery.