

1 A RESOLUTION honoring the advocacy of Marsha Van Hook.

2 WHEREAS, Marsha Van Hook was born in Owensboro, Kentucky, in August
3 1958, to Mary Jane and George Edward Van Hook, and spent her early years at home
4 with her older brother, Pete, and younger brother, Steve; and

5 WHEREAS, Marsha Van Hook enjoyed her family, friends, school, and church
6 activities while growing up in the Somerset area; and

7 WHEREAS, Marsha Van Hook was diagnosed with cerebral palsy in her
8 childhood. Despite the challenges that came with this diagnosis, Marsha excelled as a
9 student and graduated from Eubank High School in Eubank, Kentucky; and

10 WHEREAS, Marsha Van Hook continued her education at Eastern Kentucky
11 University, where she earned her bachelor's degree in rehabilitation counseling in 1984;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Marsha Van Hook was motivated to use her education and experience
14 to help others by working with the Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation before
15 leaving to work at Goodwill Industries in Louisville; and

16 WHEREAS, Marsha Van Hook's outgoing personality and desire to be helpful led
17 to her being known by many programs and people serving Kentuckians with disabilities
18 who invited Marsha to join them in their advocacy work; and

19 WHEREAS, Marsha Van Hook has volunteered or worked at many organizations,
20 including the Pulaski County Schools, Eubank Baptist Church, Arc of Kentucky,
21 Kentucky Disabilities Coalition, and United 874K Disabilities Coalition; and

22 WHEREAS, Marsha Van Hook's passion for speaking up and speaking out for
23 herself and her fellow Kentuckians with disabilities led to her serving on the Arc of
24 Kentucky Board of Directors as advocacy chair at the Lake Cumberland Arc; as chair of
25 partners in policymaking; and on the Council of the Hart supported living program; and

26 WHEREAS, after seeing her brother, Steve, struggle with mental illness and
27 addiction, Marsha Van Hook educated herself about these issues and became an outspoke

1 advocate for Steve, who sadly died far too soon in February 2021; and

2 WHEREAS, Marsha Van Hook is a tireless advocate in Frankfort, engaging in
3 letter writing, calls, and visits with policymakers, and is known and respected by leaders
4 of Kentucky state government; and

5 WHEREAS, despite reaching retirement age, Marsha Van Hook has shown no
6 signs of slowing down, maintaining the same level of advocacy and desire to speak up to
7 improve the lives of others. Her example and mentorship will inspire Kentuckians
8 beyond her time;

9 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

12 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate do hereby honor the accomplishments of
13 Marsha Van Hook and congratulate her for her years of advocacy on behalf of
14 Kentuckians with disabilities.

15 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
16 Resolution to Senator Rick Girdler for delivery.