

1 A RESOLUTION honoring Senator Denise Harper Angel upon her retirement from
2 the General Assembly.

3 WHEREAS, Senator Denise Harper Angel was sworn into office in January 2005,
4 and has dutifully served Kentucky's 35th Senate District, which encompasses parts of
5 Jefferson County; and

6 WHEREAS, a resident of Louisville, Senator Denise Harper Angel was a proud
7 graduate of Southern High School and has been inducted into the Southern High School
8 Hall of Fame. She also attended the University of Louisville; and

9 WHEREAS, Senator Denise Harper Angel is a proud mother of two daughters,
10 Ashley-Paige and Erica, and was a devoted wife to her late husband, Glen Dreisbach; and

11 WHEREAS, a civic-minded individual and dutiful public servant for 49 years, 36 of
12 those years as an elected official, Senator Denise Harper Angel served as a member of the
13 Metropolitan Louisville Women's Political Caucus and Business and Professional
14 Women/River City; and

15 WHEREAS, Senator Denise Harper Angel's interest in public service began at a
16 young age. In 1974, she worked on the campaign of the late Governor Julian Carroll,
17 whose commitment to education reform and improving the lives of the working class
18 inspired her. Governor Carroll's transformative leadership and genuine commitment to
19 the public welfare had a profound influence on Senator Harper Angel, and she went on to
20 sponsor and support legislation to improve the lives of the Commonwealth's most
21 vulnerable residents, including children, seniors, and individuals with disabilities; and

22 WHEREAS, prior to her tenure in the Kentucky Senate, Denise Harper Angel
23 served as Jefferson County Property Valuation Administrator (PVA) from 1990 to 2004,
24 having been the first woman to be elected to that office. During her time as PVA, Denise
25 Harper Angel was a member and the first woman president of the Kentucky PVA
26 Association, and was named Outstanding PVA of the Year in 1996; and

27 WHEREAS, through her contributions, hard work, and advocacy, Senator Denise

1 Harper Angel is a distinguished member of the state Democratic Party, who has dedicated
2 her career to public service and legislative advocacy. With a profound commitment to
3 improving the lives of the people of this Commonwealth, Senator Denise Harper Angel
4 has always been a respected figure in the Kentucky State Senate. She served as a member
5 of the Jefferson County Democratic Executive Committee and was a delegate at the
6 Democratic National Convention in 1992, showcasing her dedication to the party's
7 principles and values. In 1995, Senator Denise Harper Angel took a significant step in her
8 political career by running as a candidate for Lieutenant Governor. While she did not
9 secure the position, Senator Harper Angel gained valuable insights into the complexities
10 of state government and policymaking, paving her way to having a successful legislative
11 career in the Kentucky State Senate; and

12 WHEREAS, as soon as she was sworn in as a member of the General Assembly,
13 and as the only female serving in the Senate Democratic caucus at the time, Senator
14 Denise Harper Angel began work to improve the lives of our Commonwealth's most at-
15 risk citizens. She successfully sponsored several healthcare-related bills in the 2006
16 Regular Session, which was only her second session as a Senator, and those bills included
17 the establishment of a one-stop resource center to assist elderly Kentuckians who provide
18 care for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, the creation of a statewide
19 osteoporosis education and prevention program, and a requirement that advanced
20 directives, living wills, and organ donations be part of the electronic health network
21 designed to improve health care; and

22 WHEREAS, Senator Denise Harper Angel was instrumental in the passage of
23 House Bill 90 during the 2006 Regular Session. She worked closely with Representative
24 Tom Burch to advance the bill, which established graduated licenses for teenagers,
25 through the legislative process; and

26 WHEREAS, Senator Denise Harper Angel's relentless commitment to protecting
27 and supporting our Commonwealth's most vulnerable populations led to the creation of

1 the Kentucky Golden Alert Program in 2008. The Golden Alert Program has since
2 become instrumental in reuniting missing impaired adults with their families – touching
3 lives, bringing families back together, and providing an immediate and personal impact to
4 individuals and families; and

5 WHEREAS, during the 2010 Regular Session, Senator Denise Harper Angel
6 sponsored legislation to prohibit anyone from texting while driving and prohibit minors
7 from talking on the phone while driving during the graduated license period; and

8 WHEREAS, one of Senator Denise Harper Angel's proudest legislative
9 accomplishments occurred during the 2016 Regular Session, when she sponsored and
10 helped pass the SAFE Act. This bill established clear guidelines and deadlines for the
11 processing of untested sexual assault kits, which was a crucial step toward seeking
12 swifter justice for victims of sexual assault. The enacted legislation ensures that the
13 average turnaround time for processing sexual assault kits is significantly reduced,
14 expediting justice for victims of sexual assault who have waited too long for results; and

15 WHEREAS, during her tenure in the Senate, Senator Denise Harper Angel was a
16 vocal advocate for enhancing state police forensic laboratories, including funding,
17 staffing, and integration of advanced technology; and

18 WHEREAS, in 2020, Senator Denise Harper Angel sponsored and advanced a bill
19 to help address the alarming rise in suicide rates and sexual violence among youth. The
20 bill required student IDs to include national crisis hotline information, providing
21 immediate access to help and support for young people, a small, but vital step in assisting
22 vulnerable youth and providing a beacon of hope in moments of despair; and

23 WHEREAS, Senator Denise Harper Angel also worked to ensure accountability
24 and the integrity of law enforcement in the Commonwealth, which was a cornerstone of
25 her legislative efforts. She worked to ensure that law enforcement officers who commit
26 sexual offenses while on duty are held accountable, thereby upholding the highest
27 standards of conduct while protecting individuals in their care. She was a proud sponsor

1 of Senate Bill 282 during the 2023 Regular Session, which increased the financial support
2 available to crime victims, including higher compensation for lost wages and funeral
3 expenses; and

4 WHEREAS, building on the success in securing funding for crime victims, Senator
5 Denise Harper Angel sponsored Senate Bill 319 during the 2024 Regular Session, which
6 would increase the overall compensation cap for crime victims from \$30,000 to \$50,000;
7 broaden eligibility to include caregivers; eliminate the five-year statute of limitations
8 pertaining to the backlog of rape kits; introduce an online, multilingual process for victim
9 support alongside a system to track application status; and expand emergency awards
10 provisions and increase maximum award amounts for immediate support needs. Senate
11 Bill 319 has passed both chambers and will soon become law; and

12 WHEREAS, Senator Denise Harper Angel served as a member of several
13 committees during her time in the Senate, including the Appropriations and Revenue
14 Committee; Budget Review Subcommittee on Economic Development and Tourism;
15 Economic Development, Tourism, and Labor Committee; Licensing and Occupations
16 Committee; Veterans, Military Affairs, and Public Protection Committee; Families and
17 Children Committee; and State and Local Government Committee; and

18 WHEREAS, Senator Denise Harper Angel's legacy, much like that of her mentor,
19 the late Governor Julian Carroll, will be remembered by her commitment to improving
20 the lives of the people of this Commonwealth. Her diligent work and successes to
21 improve the lives of children, seniors, and victims of crime will be an inspiration to a new
22 generation of leaders who follow in her footsteps. The members of the Senate, as well as
23 citizens of this Commonwealth, are fortunate and grateful for her dedicated service; and

24 WHEREAS, Senator Denise Harper Angel has served over 32 legislative sessions,
25 including 19 Regular Sessions and 13 Special Sessions; and

26 WHEREAS, Senator Denise Harper Angel is rightfully honored on this day for her
27 years of service to the Commonwealth as a member of the Kentucky Senate. The

1 members of the Senate hereby commend Senator Denise Harper Angel for her many
2 achievements and wish to extend sincere well wishes as she enjoys her retirement to
3 spend more time with her family and travel;

4 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

7 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate hereby salute Senator Denise Harper
8 Angel and express their sincere appreciation for her service to her community, the
9 Senate, and the Commonwealth of Kentucky upon her retirement.

10 ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor of the
11 extraordinary service of Senator Denise Harper Angel.

12 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
13 Resolution to Senator Damon Thayer for delivery to Senator Denise Harper Angel.