A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION establishing the Make America Healthy Again Kentucky Task Force to explore ways to integrate the principles of the Make America Healthy Again movement to improve health outcomes of Kentuckians.

WHEREAS, improving public health and reducing the prevalence of chronic diseases are critical to the health and well-being of Kentucky citizens and to the state's prosperity; and

WHEREAS, the Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) movement promotes health freedom by allowing individuals to make informed choices about their health care; and

WHEREAS, the MAHA movement supports reducing the prevalence of chronic diseases by improving lifestyle and dietary choices; and

WHEREAS, there is evidence that poor diet and lack of exercise contribute to the high rates of chronic diseases in Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, approximately 74 percent of adults in the United States are overweight or obese; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky has one of the highest adult obesity rates compared to other states, with approximately 30 percent of adults classified as obese; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky has a childhood obesity rate of approximately 20 percent for children between the ages of 10 and 17 years old; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, the leading cause of death in Kentucky was heart disease, with an age-adjusted death rate of 216.3 per 100,000 residents, 23.3 percent higher than the national average; and

WHEREAS, the MAHA movement advocates for increasing public access to nutritious and unprocessed foods to promote a diet that supports good health; and

WHEREAS, the MAHA movement advocates for minimizing population exposure to environmental toxins and pollutants that contribute to respiratory diseases, heart disease, and other chronic conditions; and

WHEREAS, the MAHA movement calls for transparent, science-based health policies and recommendations that are in the best interest of the public and are free from undue corporate influence;

NOW, THEREFORE,

***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the House of Representatives concurring therein:***

➔Section 1. The General Assembly supports the goals of the Make America Healthy Again movement, and in doing so:

(1) Supports policies that increase access to clean, whole foods across Kentucky to enhance nutrition and reduce diet-related diseases;

(2) Encourages access to local, fresh produce in schools, communities, and markets through initiatives like farmers' markets and farm-to-school programs;

(3) Encourages public health efforts to educate Kentuckians on healthy living, good nutrition, and chronic disease prevention;

(4) Urges state and local health agencies to collaborate with schools and community organizations to expand public health programs that focus on empowering individuals and families with knowledge on how to manage their own health through good nutrition, regular physical activity, and avoidance of harmful substances;

(5) Urges legislative and regulatory updates to align agricultural and health policies, including:

(a) Creating incentives for the production and consumption of nutritious foods in Kentucky;

(b) Encouraging Kentuckians to make healthy food choices, including reducing reliance on highly processed, high-sugar products, through education and policy incentives; and

(c) Addressing environmental health risks to improve overall public health outcomes;

(6) Recognizes the role of immunity as a factor in public health policy alongside other preventive measures; and

(7) Encourages state health officials to consider evidence of immunity from prior illness as part of broader health guidelines and emergency response plans.

➔Section 2. (1) The Legislative Research Commission shall establish the Make America Healthy Again Kentucky Task Force.

(2) The duties of the task force shall include but are not limited to:

(a) Exploring ways that Kentucky can integrate the MAHA movement principles into state laws, policies, and programs to improve the overall health of Kentuckians; and

(b) Reviewing strategies that Kentucky may use to improve health outcomes through:

1. Encouraging dietary and lifestyle changes;

2. Expanding public awareness efforts on healthy nutrition and lifestyles;

3. Reducing public exposure to environmental toxins; and

4. Increasing public awareness and input into state health policies.

➔Section 3. The Make America Healthy Again Kentucky Task Force shall be composed of the following members with final membership of the task force being subject to the consideration and approval of the Legislative Research Commission:

(1) Three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives as a co-chair of the task force;

(2) Three members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, one of whom shall be designated by the President of the Senate as a co-chair of the task force;

(3) One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Minority Floor Leader of the House; and

(4) One member of the Senate appointed by the Minority Floor Leader of the Senate.

➔Section 4. The Make America Healthy Again Kentucky Task Force shall at a minimum meet monthly during the 2025 Interim of the General Assembly and shall submit recommendations to the Governor and to the Legislative Research Commission for referral to the Interim Joint Committee on Families and Children by December 1, 2025.

➔Section 5. Provisions of this Resolution to the contrary notwithstanding, the Legislative Research Commission shall have the authority to alternatively assign the issues identified herein to an interim joint committee or subcommittee thereof, and to designate a study completion date.

➔Section 6. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Governor, each member of Kentucky's Congressional delegation, and the secretary of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, the Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, and the commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Education, for review and consideration in advancing the goals of the Make America Healthy Again movement to make Kentucky healthy again.