

1           A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION recognizing the importance of having a  
2 physician present in every emergency department and the critical need for improving  
3 rural health care.

4           WHEREAS, patients routinely present to emergency departments with acute and  
5 potentially life-threatening injuries and illnesses; and

6           WHEREAS, Level IV trauma centers are specialized emergency departments  
7 equipped to care for patients suffering traumatic conditions such as crashes, gunshot  
8 wounds, severe burns, and blunt force traumas; and

9           WHEREAS, physicians complete 12,000 to 16,000 hours of clinical education and  
10 training during four years of medical school and three to seven years of medical  
11 residency allowing the development of clinical judgment, medical acumen, and decision-  
12 making skills; and

13           WHEREAS, immediate evaluation and treatment are critical and only physicians  
14 have the clinical expertise needed to quickly assess and evaluate a patient's condition or  
15 injury, initiate on-site treatment, and stabilize the patient for transfer when necessary; and

16           WHEREAS, advanced practice providers such as advanced practice registered  
17 nurses and physician assistants complete only a fraction of the education of a physician,  
18 neither completes a residency, and less than 20 percent have any specialty certification;  
19 and

20           WHEREAS, advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants are highly  
21 skilled and valued members of emergency department physician-led collaborative teams;  
22 and

23           WHEREAS, the American Medical Association's policy is that emergency  
24 departments should be staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by a qualified  
25 physician whose primary duty is to provide care in that emergency department; and

26           WHEREAS, Kentucky ranks 40th in the nation in the number of primary care  
27 physicians per 100,000 people, and only 25 percent of Kentucky physicians practice in

1 rural counties; and

2 WHEREAS, physician recruitment efforts should be a top priority in support of  
3 rural health care; and

4 WHEREAS, area health education centers should be expanded to encourage and  
5 support students' education in health care fields; and

6 WHEREAS, work with state and federal partners could increase graduate medical  
7 education slots; and

8 WHEREAS, having a physician present in every emergency department is an  
9 investment in rural health care and rural communities; and

10 WHEREAS, even in remote rural locations, a physician's emergency department  
11 presence ensures essential, expert care for the safety of all citizens of the Commonwealth;

12 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

15 ➔Section 1. The General Assembly recognizes the importance of having a  
16 physician present in every emergency department and the critical need for improving  
17 rural health care.

18 ➔Section 2. The General Assembly is committed to supporting physician  
19 education and recruitment efforts as a top priority to investing in quality rural health care.

20 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a  
21 copy of this Resolution to Representative Mark Hart.