

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION declaring Kentucky a Food is Medicine state and
2 directing state agencies to advance Food is Medicine initiatives.

3 WHEREAS, the United States spends \$4.5 trillion annually on health care with 90
4 percent of those expenditures covering care for people with chronic physical and mental
5 health conditions; and

6 WHEREAS, six in 10 Americans have at least one chronic disease and four in 10
7 have two or more chronic diseases; and

8 WHEREAS, diet-related physical conditions such as obesity impact 41.9 percent of
9 adults in the United States and result in \$173 billion annually in health care costs; and

10 WHEREAS, in Kentucky, 40.4 percent of adults have at least one chronic physical
11 disease such as diabetes or heart disease, which results in over \$29.4 billion in health care
12 expenses annually; and

13 WHEREAS, the incidence of chronic disease is higher in rural and other areas
14 underserved by health and community resources compared to better served areas which
15 intensifies population health disparities in the state; and

16 WHEREAS, some state pilot programs and national studies have demonstrated that
17 Food is Medicine intervention programs, especially when administered in clinical
18 settings, can prevent and improve health care outcomes for chronic diseases, thereby
19 reducing chronic disease rates and health care costs; and

20 WHEREAS, Kentucky has pioneered Food is Medicine efforts, including the
21 Kentucky Hospital Association's (KHA) partnership with the Kentucky Department of
22 Agriculture (KDA), to launch a dedicated initiative to integrate health care and
23 agriculture with the goal of making Kentucky citizens healthier by addressing poor diet,
24 food insecurity, and agriculture production barriers as well as health insurance
25 provisions, basic nutrition needs, and chronic disease management; and

26 WHEREAS, Kentucky hospitals, through the KHA and its members, are leading in
27 the Food is Medicine initiative by creating and implementing Food is Medicine programs

1 in clinical settings and employee care programs that track and monitor health outcomes;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, declaring Kentucky a Food is Medicine state will build on the
4 foundations of the KHA and the KDA partnership by fostering collaboration among
5 health care providers, private insurers, managed care organizations, state agencies, local
6 governments, and nonprofit organizations to expand initiatives using local farm products
7 in nutritional health interventions; and

8 WHEREAS, the Food is Medicine state declaration aligns with Kentucky's
9 commitment to improving population health, reducing health disparities, and promoting
10 preventive care as cost-effective strategies for long-term fiscal sustainability, particularly
11 amid Kentucky's ongoing battle against nutrition-sensitive chronic diseases;

12 NOW, THEREFORE,

13 ***Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

14 ➔Section 1. The General Assembly hereby declares Kentucky to be a Food is
15 Medicine state to recognize the critical role of nutrition in preventing and managing
16 chronic diseases and to promote the use of local food products in health care systems.

17 ➔Section 2. State agencies are directed to advance Food is Medicine initiatives
18 by taking all appropriate actions, including but not limited to:

- 19 (1) Affirming the integration of nutrition as a core component of medical treatment and
20 public health policy;
- 21 (2) Supporting coordination with the Kentucky Hospital Association, the Kentucky
22 Department of Agriculture, and other relevant agencies and partners to pilot
23 medically tailored meals and produce prescriptions for high-risk populations;
- 24 (3) Forming public-private partnerships to support local food systems and community-
25 based food delivery; and
- 26 (4) Supporting evaluations to measure the health outcomes, cost savings, and impacts
27 of Food is Medicine initiatives.