

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 condition and four in 10
7 have two or more chronic conditions; 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
11 reversible physical condition such as diabetes or heart issues, which results in over \$29.4
12 billion in health care expenses annually; and

13 WHEREAS, some state pilot programs and national studies have demonstrated that
14 Food is Medicine intervention programs, especially when administered in clinical
15 settings, can prevent and improve health care outcomes for chronic conditions, thereby
16 reducing chronic condition rates and health care costs; and

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

23 WHEREAS, Kentucky hospitals, through the KHA and its members, are leading in
24 the Food is Medicine initiative by creating and implementing Food is Medicine programs
25 in clinical settings and employee care programs that track and monitor health outcomes;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, declaring Kentucky a Food is Medicine state will build on the

1 foundations of the KHA and the KDA partnership by fostering collaboration among
2 health care providers, private insurers, managed care organizations, state agencies, local
3 governments, and nonprofit organizations to expand initiatives using local farm products
4 in nutritional health interventions; and

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

10 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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

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

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