

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION directing state agencies to deploy policies that support a
2 focus on healthy lifestyles and evidence-based nutrition interventions in all health and
3 medical education for students and active health professionals.

4 WHEREAS, Kentucky can maintain an alignment with federal policy guidance
5 from the Make America Healthy Again strategy as outlined by the United States
6 Department of Health and Human Services for lifestyle interventions, chronic disease
7 reduction, and childhood chronic disease epidemic; and

8 WHEREAS, Kentucky can further match the United States Department of
9 Agriculture's policies to strengthen strategies for healthier choices and to support
10 innovative pilot programs; and

11 WHEREAS, nutrition and lifestyle education aligns with the Commonwealth's
12 declaration as a Food Is Medicine state and supports local-first school nutrition
13 legislation as complementary policy while launching the largest single-state nutrition and
14 lifestyle medicine workforce investments; and

15 WHEREAS, Kentucky will incorporate and expand high-quality training into
16 current and continuing medical education for existing and future physicians, other health
17 care professionals, allied health and nursing personnel, and K-12 educators, to align state
18 policy with translational knowledge into everyday care and general daily practice driving
19 enriched clinical tools and patient resources to influence behavior modification in
20 nutrition habits for long-term health improvement; and

21 WHEREAS, the American College of Lifestyle Medicine has taken a leadership
22 role in advancing the education of healthcare professional partnership with the Kentucky
23 Medical Association through a whole-person care approach, specifically addressing
24 whole food nutrition, physical activity, restorative sleep, social connectedness, stress
25 management, and avoidance of risky substances; and

26 WHEREAS, the American College of Lifestyle Medicine cites research showing
27 that 94% of internal medicine resident doctors believe nutrition counseling to be essential

1 to patient care, yet 86% felt unqualified and clinically unprepared to provide effective
2 nutrition counseling; and

3 WHEREAS, statewide campaigns include public health messaging and clinical
4 education with workforce-focused resources to directly impact the population through
5 meaningful clinical encounters in provider-patient interactions and educational
6 environments; and

7 WHEREAS, a Kentucky coalition of medical, educational, and adjacent
8 organizations addresses healthy lifestyle fundamentals and nutrition interventions to treat
9 obesity, address chronic diseases like diabetes and hypertension, and diet-related risk
10 factors as part of pre-clinical, clinical, and continuing medical education curriculum; and

11 WHEREAS, Kentucky is a distinguished leader in the pursuit of Making America
12 Healthy Again;

13 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

15 ➔Section 1. The General Assembly hereby directs state agencies to deploy
16 policies that support a focus on healthy lifestyles and evidence-based nutrition
17 interventions in all health and medical education for students and active health
18 professionals and specifically directs:

19 (1) The Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure, the Kentucky Board of Nursing,
20 the Kentucky Department for Public Health, and the Kentucky Department of Education
21 to collaborate with the Kentucky Hospital Association, the Kentucky Primary Care
22 Association, and the American College of Lifestyle Medicine (ACLM) to:

23 (a) Guide a coalition of the medical, educational, and adjacent organizations to
24 assist with the implementation of the ACLM Statewide Fundamentals continuing medical
25 education provider training pilot program; ~~and~~

26 (b) Support the goal of the pilot program which is to apply nutrition and lifestyle-
27 based interventions as part of routine health care by:

1 1. Providing certification-ready training to approximately 10% of Kentucky's
2 healthcare workforce, or approximately 24,000 healthcare professionals, including 250 of
3 whom practice in rural areas, including medical doctors, doctors of osteopathic medicine,
4 advanced practice registered nurses, and physician assistants; and

5 2. Providing ACLM's foundational Lifestyle Medicine and Food Is Medicine
6 training to 2% of Kentucky educators, or approximately 1,000 education sector
7 employees, including K-12 school health education teachers and school food service
8 directors; and

9 (c) Support a pre- and post-engagement study of the pilot program conducted by
10 the ACLM that will:

11 1. Employ a benchmark and evaluation tool focused on healthcare and education
12 workforce participants and their nutrition and lifestyle medicine acumen; and

13 2. Demonstrate the impact and efficacy of the training to ensure the training
14 results in clinical preparedness and the appropriate knowledge to promote long-term
15 clinical integration and population health outcome improvement;

16 (2) The Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure, the Kentucky Board of Nursing,
17 and the Kentucky Department of Education to integrate the components of the pilot
18 program as a primary priority and credential the components in compliance with
19 Kentucky medical and continuing education standards;

20 (3) The Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure to coordinate with the Kentucky
21 Association of Naturopathic Physicians on a licensure pathway and administrative
22 regulation framework for naturopathic physicians to practice in the Commonwealth;

23 (4) The Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure to report on the progress of
24 activities under subsections (2) and (3) of this section to the General Assembly by
25 December 1, 2026, and December 1, 2027;

26 (5) The Kentucky Board of Nursing and the Kentucky Department of Education
27 to report on the progress of activities under subsection (2) of this section to the General

1 Assembly by December 1, 2026, and December 1, 2027; and

2 (6) The Department for Public Health to:

3 (a) Participate in the pilot program to facilitate and assist outreach and education;

4 (b) Integrate the six lifestyle medicine pillars as appropriate, into public health

5 programs and policies; ~~and~~

6 (c) By August 1, 2026, coordinate a funding agreement for a total \$6,262,000 for
7 the ACLM Statewide Fundamentals continuing medical education provider training pilot
8 program, between:

9 1. Appropriate stakeholders and partners with a proposed one-time investment of
10 15% or \$962,000; and

11 2. The ACLM with a committed private donation to Kentucky of 85%, or
12 \$5,300,000; and

13 (d) Report to the General Assembly by December 1, 2026, and December 1,
14 2027, on the status of the activities under this subsection and subsection (1) of this
15 section.