

1 A RESOLUTION honoring the tenth anniversary of 2016 Regular Session Senate
2 Bill 228 and recognizing its lasting impact on bullying prevention in Kentucky public
3 schools.

4 WHEREAS, prior to 2016, many Kentucky students who were victims of bullying
5 were resigned to suffering in silence because there was no definition by which teachers
6 and administrators could consistently identify bullying behavior; and

7 WHEREAS, after bullying was elevated as a matter of statewide concern, the
8 Kentucky Youth Bullying Prevention Task Force was appointed in 2014 to study and
9 gain insight into the issue of bullying; and

10 WHEREAS, the final report of the task force concluded that bullying is not a
11 problem that is confined to schools only. Rather, bullying has severe, far-reaching
12 consequences that negatively impact the well-being of children, families, and
13 communities; and

14 WHEREAS, the task force further concluded that many of the problems related to
15 bullying, such as inconsistent understanding, reporting, and data collection, resulted from
16 the lack of a clear definition of bullying; and

17 WHEREAS, informed by the task force's recommendations, 2016 Regular Session
18 Senate Bill 228 defined bullying as "any unwanted verbal, physical, or social behavior
19 among students that involves a real or perceived power imbalance and is repeated or has
20 the potential to be repeated"; and

21 WHEREAS, by establishing the first clear, statewide definition of bullying, Senate
22 Bill 228 created a pathway for students experiencing bullying to be heard, believed, and
23 helped, ensuring that their concerns could be recognized and addressed, rather than
24 dismissed or misunderstood; and

25 WHEREAS, the adoption of this definition protects more than 640,000 Kentucky
26 public school students each year, and over the past decade—accounting for graduating
27 classes and incoming students—has benefited approximately 1.2 million public school

1 students across the Commonwealth; and

2 WHEREAS, 2026 marks the tenth anniversary of the enactment of Senate Bill 228
3 and a decade of progress made possible by the clarity, consistency, and accountability
4 established through its adoption;

5 NOW, THEREFORE,

6 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of*
7 *Kentucky:*

8 ➔Section 1. The Senate hereby honors the tenth anniversary of 2016 Regular
9 Session Senate Bill 228 and recognizes its lasting impact on bullying prevention,
10 reporting, and response efforts in Kentucky public schools.

11 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
12 Resolution to Senator Danny Carroll.