

A JOINT RESOLUTION relating to a per diem increase for the care of children placed in state foster homes.

WHEREAS, as of September 2015 there were 2,956 children placed in Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) foster homes, 38 percent of all children placed in out-of-home care; and

WHEREAS, DCBS foster parents have a high level of accountability and training; and

WHEREAS, DCBS foster homes are not equally compensated in comparison to Private Child Placing (PCP) or Private Child Caring (PCC) agencies; and

WHEREAS, DCBS foster homes are underutilized relative to PCP and PCC agencies even though the cost to the state is lower and the care for children is equivalent; and

WHEREAS, DCBS foster homes have not had a per diem increase since July 2003 while PCP and PCC agencies had a six percent per diem increase in 2014; and

WHEREAS, the expense of attending to the basic needs associated with caring for children such as food, fuel, housing, clothing, and personal and school supplies have increased;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

➔Section 1. The Cabinet for Health and Family Services is hereby directed to expend appropriated funds to provide the Department for Community Based Services foster homes with a minimum per diem increase of six percent beginning July 1, 2016.

➔Section 2. The General Assembly is urged to appropriate \$1.5 million in each fiscal year for a per diem increase of six percent for the Department for Community Based Services foster homes.