

1           A RESOLUTION recognizing the suffering and anguish experienced by women and  
2 families who learn during pregnancy that their unborn child has a life-limiting condition  
3 which could result in the death before or shortly after birth, and the importance of  
4 perinatal palliative care and neonatal palliative and hospice care in providing support,  
5 information, and education for these women and families.

6           WHEREAS, perinatal palliative care and neonatal palliative and hospice care are  
7 innovative and compassionate models of support for parents who choose to continue their  
8 pregnancies following a prenatal diagnosis indicating that their unborn child has a life-  
9 limiting condition and might die before or shortly after birth; and

10          WHEREAS, through advances in medical testing and diagnostic technology a  
11 growing number of women and families find themselves in this heartbreaking situation  
12 each year; and

13          WHEREAS, palliative and hospice care providers and comprehensive  
14 multidisciplinary care teams have developed wrap-around services, including case  
15 management, counseling, and individualized birth plans, which provide substantial  
16 support to women and families in their special time of need; and

17          WHEREAS, this specialized support is provided from the time of diagnosis through  
18 the baby's birth and death, thereby helping parents embrace whatever life their baby might  
19 be able to have through assistance in making medical decisions, developing specialized  
20 birth plans, creating memories and keepsakes, and planning memorial services if desired;  
21 and

22          WHEREAS, the information and support services currently available to grieving  
23 expectant parents about perinatal palliative care and neonatal palliative and hospice care  
24 are limited and not easily accessible; and

25          WHEREAS, providers and families must be connected in an efficient and effective  
26 manner so that citizens of the Commonwealth can utilize the resources available to them;

27          NOW, THEREFORE,

1 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the*  
2 *Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

3       ➔Section 1. The House of Representatives hereby recognizes the extreme pain,  
4 suffering, and anguish experienced by women and families who learn during pregnancy  
5 that their unborn child has a life-limiting condition which could result in the death of the  
6 child before or shortly after birth, or that their child could have a significantly shortened  
7 lifespan related to a terminal condition.

8       ➔Section 2. The House of Representatives hereby recognizes the importance of  
9 connecting grieving women and families with perinatal palliative care and hospice  
10 practitioners.

11       ➔Section 3. The House of Representatives hereby urges all hospitals and clinics  
12 offering obstetric services, obstetric practices, and alternative birthing centers to provide  
13 or make referrals for perinatal palliative care and neonatal palliative and hospice care in  
14 the instance of a diagnosis that a pregnancy is incompatible with life or that an unborn  
15 child has a life-limiting condition that may result in death shortly after birth or a  
16 significantly limited life expectancy.

17       ➔Section 4. The House of Representatives hereby urges palliative and hospice  
18 care providers to establish or expand perinatal palliative and neonatal palliative care and  
19 hospice programs.

20       ➔Section 5. The House of Representatives hereby urges perinatal palliative and  
21 neonatal palliative care and hospice providers to provide anticipatory support and  
22 counseling to patients and families before, during, and after delivery through physical,  
23 emotional, and spiritual support.

24       ➔Section 6. The House of Representatives hereby urges perinatal palliative and  
25 neonatal palliative care and hospice care providers to include coordination of care  
26 between the obstetric and neonatal care providers, hospital staff, clinic staff, the patient,  
27 and the family of infants with a terminal diagnosis.

1           ➔Section 7. The House of Representatives hereby urges perinatal palliative and  
2 neonatal palliative care and hospice care providers to include assistance with the creation  
3 of a personalized birth plan, designed around the parents' wishes for the labor and  
4 delivery experience and care of their baby at birth, and to assist in the planning of a  
5 memorial service if desired.

6           ➔Section 8. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a  
7 copy of this Resolution to Representative Addia Wuchner.