

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION directing the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to
2 apply for a Medicaid waiver for individuals with severe mental illness and declaring
3 an emergency.

4 WHEREAS, approximately 746,000 adults in Kentucky have a mental health
5 condition and approximately 113,000 individuals have a severe mental illness (SMI); and

6 WHEREAS, individuals with SMI are the only population in Kentucky with a
7 disability that does not have a Medicaid waiver; and

8 WHEREAS, housing is central to recovery for individuals with SMI, but
9 individuals with SMI experience higher rates of housing insecurity and homelessness
10 than the general population; and

11 WHEREAS, without suitable housing, individuals with SMI have little chance of
12 maintaining other resources in their lives, such as supportive social
13 relationships, employment, and meaningful activities; and

14 WHEREAS, temporary housing for individuals with SMI who are discharged from a
15 hospital and need a safe place to stay for follow-up appointments while a more
16 permanent plan is processing is also important; and

17 WHEREAS, employment rates decline with increasing mental illness severity, and
18 individuals with SMI are less likely than individuals with no, mild, or moderate mental
19 illness to be employed after age 49; and

20 WHEREAS, supported employment helps individuals with mental illness obtain
21 and keep competitive employment; and

22 WHEREAS, there is evidence to conclude that supported employment significantly
23 increases levels of employment over the long term; and

24 WHEREAS, a Medicaid waiver will allow housing services and supported
25 employment to be reimbursable by Medicaid, thereby improving access to recovery
26 for individuals with SMI;

27 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

2 ➔Section 1. The General Assembly hereby directs the Cabinet for Health
3 and Family Services to apply for a Medicaid waiver for individuals with severe mental
4 illness to provide for:

5 (1) Supported housing, which may include staffed residences, group homes,
6 family care homes, specialized personal care homes, or personal care homes;

7 (2) Medical respite care; and

8 (3) Supported employment.

9 ➔Section 2. The Cabinet for Health and Family Services shall report to the
10 Interim Joint Committee on Health, Welfare, and Family Services by August 1, 2022, of
11 any actions taken and any necessary legislative action that may be needed to
12 obtain a Medicaid waiver targeting individuals with severe mental illness.

13 ➔Section 3. Whereas, the General Assembly desires to provide individuals
14 with SMI with supported housing and employment, an emergency is declared to exist,
15 and this Resolution takes effect upon its passage and approval by the Governor
16 or upon its otherwise becoming law.