

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION relating to the awarding of American Rescue
2 Plan premium pay.

3 WHEREAS, since March 6, 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has required
4 Kentucky's frontline and essential support employees to operate in dangerous, but
5 necessary, workplaces; and

6 WHEREAS, many of our nurses, firefighters, EMS workers, and law enforcement
7 and corrections officers have had to be in close proximity with those who were infected,
8 putting not just their lives but also their families' lives at risk; and

9 WHEREAS, in operating and maintaining critical infrastructure and services,
10 frontline and essential support workers have maintained power systems providing lighting
11 and keeping homes and businesses comfortable; stocked grocery shelves; maintained
12 water and sewer systems; cared for the elderly; provided public transportation; cleaned
13 businesses, hospitals and other facilities; and undertaken many more essential tasks; and

14 WHEREAS, the American Rescue Plan Act permits Coronavirus State and Local
15 Fiscal Recovery Funds to be used to provide premium pay to workers who protect and
16 care for the residents of the Commonwealth and who promote the health and well-being
17 of the communities therein; and

18 WHEREAS, Kentucky's frontline and essential support workers provided public
19 testimony to Kentucky lawmakers on three separate dates in December 2021, explaining
20 why their professions should be rewarded with bonus pay; and

21 WHEREAS, more than 250 individuals contacted lawmakers to provide written and
22 verbal testimony, along with numerous employee organizations representing healthcare
23 and family services, first responders and corrections, education, transportation, food
24 services and goods distribution, public works, and front-facing businesses; and

25 WHEREAS, the testimony submitted to Kentucky lawmakers in December
26 represents approximately 1.2 million workers in the Commonwealth;

27 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

3 ➔Section 1. The Kentucky House of Representatives bestows its highest honor
4 and praise to the brave frontline and essential support workers in the Commonwealth who
5 have performed heroically and continue to perform bravely in response to the
6 coronavirus.

7 ➔Section 2. The Kentucky House of Representatives calls upon the General
8 Assembly and Governor Andy Beshear to award American Rescue Plan Act premium pay
9 to frontline and essential support workers who have served the Commonwealth the last
10 two years.

11 ➔Section 3. The American Rescue Plan Act premium pay shall be awarded using
12 guidelines issued by the United States Department of the Treasury, with no state tax being
13 deducted from the issued payments, and those payments shall be issued through a 2022-
14 2024 biennial budget allocation.

15 ➔Section 4. The Kentucky House of Representatives accepts Governor Andy
16 Beshear's invitation to participate in a work group in concert with the Kentucky Senate to
17 formulate a plan to award premium pay to deserving members of the workforce in the
18 Commonwealth of Kentucky.