A RESOLUTION commemorating 100 years of workers' compensation in Kentucky, a voluntary, continuing, and changing program for improving economic security and safety for employees and protecting employers from liability for litigation in workplace negligence claims.

WHEREAS, workers' compensation was enacted by the 1916 Kentucky General Assembly to establish wage replacement and medical benefits for employees who sustain injuries arising out of and in the scope of employment, and to grant protections to employers against the expense and liability of defending and paying claims of negligence for injuries that may occur on a job site or other place of work in the performance of an occupation; and

WHEREAS, the original Workers' Compensation Act has evolved to accommodate changes occurring over time, including provisions enacted by the General Assembly establishing preexisting condition awards in 1946 to cover military veterans returning from World War II, adding occupational disease awards in 1972 for the benefit of coal miners and other industrial workers, establishing professional administration of workers' compensation programs and controlling costs in 1987, providing more affordable insurance coverage for high-risk employers in 1994, and modifying the indemnity benefit structure in 1996; and

WHEREAS, these and other evolutionary enactments by the Kentucky General Assembly during the past 100 years have produced a stable, efficient, safe, and affordable workers' compensation system that is responsive to the economic and the social interests of the Commonwealth;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

➔Section 1.   The General Assembly congratulates employers, employees, trade associations, labor unions, and administrators whose commitment, effort, dedication,

foresight, and willingness to compromise over the past 100 years have produced a system of workers' compensation that is suitable to the economic and social needs of the Commonwealth and adaptable to future changes.