

1 A RESOLUTION declaring October 2023 to be Kentucky Spina Bifida Awareness
2 Month.

3 WHEREAS, spina bifida is the most common permanently disabling birth defect,
4 occurring when the spine and spinal cord do not form properly within the first 30 days of
5 pregnancy and impacting approximately 1,500 births each year in the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, it is estimated that there are over 166,000 people in the United States
7 living with spina bifida; and

8 WHEREAS, the cause of spina bifida is unknown, and it affects each individual
9 differently; and

10 WHEREAS, individuals living with spina bifida may have multiple medical
11 conditions including partial paralysis, bowel and bladder incontinence, skin sensitivity,
12 hydrocephalus, and a multitude of other cognitive, developmental, and physical
13 challenges of varying degrees; and

14 WHEREAS, the medical community recommends that women who could become
15 pregnant take 400 micrograms of folic acid daily to help prevent neural tube defects such
16 as spina bifida; and

17 WHEREAS, October is National Spina Bifida Awareness Month and is represented
18 by a yellow ribbon; and

19 WHEREAS, with assistance from various organizations, health care professionals,
20 and family members, individuals born with spina bifida can lead full lives in the state of
21 Kentucky by engaging in educational opportunities, enjoying sports, and participating in
22 other enjoyable activities;

23 NOW, THEREFORE,

24 ***Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the***
25 ***Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

26 ➔Section 1. The House of Representatives does hereby designate the month of
27 October 2023 to be Kentucky Spina Bifida Awareness Month.