

1 A RESOLUTION urging the University of Kentucky and the University of
2 Louisville to regularly schedule men's and women's basketball games at the arenas of the
3 Commonwealth's other NCAA Division I schools.

4 WHEREAS, Kentucky has a rich tradition of excellence in the sport of college
5 basketball, led by the men's basketball teams of the Commonwealth's two largest public
6 institutions, the University of Kentucky (UK), which has won eight National Collegiate
7 Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I basketball championships, and the University of
8 Louisville (U of L), which has won three; and

9 WHEREAS, the women's basketball teams of these two schools, especially the U of
10 L, which has been to the Final Four of the NCAA tournament four times and twice
11 finished as NCAA runner-up, dominate the sport in the Commonwealth; and

12 WHEREAS, while the Commonwealth is undoubtedly proud of the
13 accomplishments of these two schools, there are six other Division I universities playing
14 basketball in the Commonwealth with passionate fan bases and histories of
15 accomplishment; and

16 WHEREAS, these universities include the four regional universities whose men's
17 teams forged deep rivalries from their long-time membership in the Ohio Valley
18 Conference (OVC): Western Kentucky University, a 23-time NCAA Tournament
19 participant which ranks in the top 20 in Division I in all time wins; Murray State
20 University, an 18-time NCAA Tournament participant which produced recent NBA star
21 Ja Morant; Morehead State University, nine-time NCAA Tournament participant and
22 2024 OVC champions; and Eastern Kentucky University, eight-time NCAA Tournament
23 participant and runners-up in the 2023 College Basketball Invitational Tournament; and

24 WHEREAS, the two other Division I schools in the Commonwealth are relatively
25 new to this level of basketball, but they have had a history of success at the Division II
26 level and have shown promise against the higher level of competition: Northern
27 Kentucky University, a two-time NCAA Division II runner-up which has competed in the

1 NCAA Tournament three times since moving to Division I in 2012; and Bellarmine
2 University, which won the 2011 NCAA Division II championship and the 2022 Atlantic
3 Sun Conference Tournament in just their second season in Division I; and

4 WHEREAS, on the women's side, Western Kentucky University ranks in the top 20
5 for most victories in Division I, and Northern Kentucky University was a two-time
6 champion in of the NCAA Division II until they moved to Division I; and

7 WHEREAS, all of these schools play a large part in what makes the sport of college
8 basketball so special to the Bluegrass State, and this rich tapestry of sport would be
9 improved by having UK and U of L visit the campuses of the other Division I schools in
10 the state on a regular basis;

11 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

14 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate urge the athletic directors of the
15 University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville to schedule men's and women's
16 basketball games at the arenas of the other Division I universities in the Commonwealth
17 on a regular, rotating basis.

18 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this Resolution to
19 Mitch Barnhart, Athletics Director, UK Athletics, Joe Craft Center, 338 Lexington
20 Avenue, Lexington, Kentucky 40506-0604; and to Josh Heird, Director of Athletics,
21 Louisville Athletics Department, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky 40292.