**RELATING TO PARTICIPATION IN THE NATIONAL OPIOID SETTLEMENT**

 **WHEREAS**, the opioid epidemic has had devastating consequences on our Commonwealth and on [INSERT POLITICAL SUBDIVISION];

 **WHEREAS**, the latest report from the Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy revealed that in 2020 1,964 Kentuckians lost their lives as a result of overdose, nearly a 50% increase from 2019;

 **WHEREAS**, in 2020 an opioid was involved in 90% of the 1,964 overdose deaths;

 **WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the damage caused by the ongoing opioid crisis;

 **WHEREAS**, in response, the Kentucky Attorney General has pursued litigation against opioid manufacturers and distributors, including AmerisourceBergen, Cardinal Health, McKesson, and Johnson & Johnson;

 **WHEREAS**, in cooperation with the Kentucky Association of Counties, the Kentucky League of Cities, and local governments, the General Assembly unanimously passed and the Governor signed House Bill 427 of the 2021 Regular Session;

 **WHEREAS**, House Bill 427 has been codified as KRS 15.291 and 15.293;

 **WHEREAS**, House Bill 427 provides a plan for how to distribute funds from a final settlement with AmerisourceBergen, Cardinal Health, McKesson, and Johnson & Johnson;

 **WHEREAS**, on July 21, 2021, Kentucky became a Settling State in the litigation against AmerisourceBergen, Cardinal Health, McKesson, and Johnson & Johnson;

 **WHEREAS**,in the event of a final settlement,House Bill 427releases all opioid-related claims against AmerisourceBergen, Cardinal Health, McKesson, and Johnson & Johnson;

 **WHEREAS**, in exchange for this release, the Commonwealth receives the maximum amount of settlement funds available under the settlement agreements;

 **WHEREAS**, these settlement funds will be split 50/50 between the Commonwealth and participating local governments;

 **WHEREAS**, local governments may participate in the settlement by signing-up on the national opioid website; and

 **WHEREAS**, local governments that fail to sign-up risk not qualifying as a participating local government, which is necessary for direct payments from opioid abatement funds.

 **NOW, THEREFORE**, the government of [INSERT POLITICAL SUBDIVISION], desires to join the national opioid settlement and authorizes its representative(s) to take all steps necessary to join the settlement.

 So **ORDERED** this the [INSERT DAY] day of [INSERT MONTH] 2021.