

1 A RESOLUTION directing the appointment of a committee to determine whether
2 there is sufficient cause to institute impeachment proceedings against Dawn M. Gentry,
3 Family Court Judge in Kenton County and present Articles of Impeachment to the House
4 of Representatives.

5 WHEREAS, on November 18, 2019, pursuant to SCR 4.180, Dawn M. Gentry was
6 formally charged by the Kentucky Judicial Conduct Commission (hereafter, the
7 Commission) with nine counts of misconduct which violated numerous Canons of the
8 Code of Judicial Conduct and constituted a pattern of misconduct, even though each
9 individual count on its own could warrant disciplinary action; and

10 WHEREAS, in the first count issued by the Commission, Dawn M. Gentry
11 inappropriately engaged in inappropriate conduct relating to her 2018 campaign as
12 follows: coerced members of her guardian ad litem panel to donate to her campaign and
13 to sit on the finance committee for her campaign; solicited an attorney, while in court, to
14 put up a sign for her campaign; used court staff to work for her campaign during regular
15 courthouse working hours; and appointed an attorney to her guardian ad litem panel in
16 exchange for the attorney's spouse's support for the campaign; and

17 WHEREAS, in the second count issued by the Commission, Dawn M. Gentry
18 engaged in retaliation against attorneys and other persons for failure to support her
19 campaign for Family Court judge; and

20 WHEREAS, in the third count issued by the Commission, Dawn M. Gentry
21 falsified a timesheet, knowingly approved falsified timesheets, and allowed her child to
22 witness a confidential proceeding; and

23 WHEREAS, in the fourth count issued by the Commission, Dawn M. Gentry
24 retaliated against school employees who handled dependency, neglect, and abuse cases
25 and expressed personal animosity toward a school employee but refused to recuse herself
26 from that person's cases; and

27 WHEREAS, in the fifth count issued by the Commission, Dawn M. Gentry, on

1 multiple instances, engaged in ex parte communications with her guardian ad litem panel
2 without other attorneys involved in those cases being present or having knowledge of
3 these meetings. In the meetings, substantive decisions were made with regard to these
4 cases not on the record; and

5 WHEREAS, in the sixth count issued by the Commission, Dawn M. Gentry
6 harassed an individual by making unwanted sexual advances toward that individual, and
7 then sent another person who made accusations which were reasonably interpreted as a
8 warning to keep quiet about the sexual advances to the individual; refused to recuse
9 herself from the individual's cases after these events; and engaged in Snapchat
10 discussions of a sexual nature with an employee and members of her guardian ad litem
11 panel; and

12 WHEREAS, in the seventh count issued by the Commission, Dawn M. Gentry
13 engaged in the inappropriate hiring of a person with whom she had a sexual relationship
14 and improperly delegated judicial duties to that employee; and

15 WHEREAS, in the eighth count issued by the Commission, Dawn M. Gentry hired
16 members for her guardian ad litem panel not based on merit and appointed personal
17 friends who supported her campaign to represent persons seeking de facto custodian
18 status; and

19 WHEREAS, on January 6, 2020, after a hearing and a finding by the Commission
20 that it is in the best interest of justice, Dawn M. Gentry was suspended from acting in her
21 official capacity as a Family Court Judge and prohibited from performing her judicial
22 duties and from appearing at the Kenton County Courthouse pending final adjudication of
23 the charges by the Commission, which is scheduled for hearing on April 20, 2020; and

24 WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 66 of the Kentucky Constitution and KRS 63.020,
25 the House of Representatives has the sole power of impeachment and impeachment
26 proceedings may be instituted by the House; and

27 WHEREAS, given the significant and severe nature of the counts in the formal

1 proceedings issued by the Judicial Conduct Commission against Dawn M. Gentry, a
2 committee should be formed to investigate and review the record as to whether to
3 institute impeachment proceedings against Dawn M. Gentry and whether Articles of
4 Impeachment should be presented to the House of Representatives;

5 NOW, THEREFORE,

6 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the*
7 *Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

8 ➔Section 1. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint a
9 committee of the House of Representatives to investigate and review the record as to
10 whether impeachment proceedings shall be instituted against Dawn M. Gentry, Family
11 Court Judge, 16th Judicial Circuit, Family Division 5 in Kenton County and whether
12 Dawn. M. Gentry's actions as stated by the Judicial Conduct Commission in its formal
13 proceedings warrant Articles of Impeachment to be delivered to the House of
14 Representatives.