

1 A RESOLUTION condemning anti-Semitism in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

2 WHEREAS, the First Amendment to the Constitution established the United States
3 as a country committed to the principles of tolerance and religion freedom, and the
4 Fourteenth Amendment established equal protection of the laws as the heart of justice in
5 the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, adherence to these principles is vital to the progress of the American
7 people and the diverse communities and religious groups of the Commonwealth of
8 Kentucky; and

9 WHEREAS, whether from the political right, center, or left, bigotry, discrimination,
10 oppression, racism, and imputations of dual loyalty threaten American democracy and
11 have no place in American political discourse; and

12 WHEREAS, the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, the
13 foremost leader of world Judaism in the modern era, taught it is the duty of a leader to
14 seek out the welfare of all particular sectors of the community and thereby ensure the
15 flourishing of the whole; and

16 WHEREAS, anti-Semitism is the centuries-old bigotry and form of racism faced by
17 Jewish people simply because they are Jews; and

18 WHEREAS, in 2019, the Federal Bureau of Investigation reported an increase in
19 hate crimes against Jews or Jewish institutions and found that attacks against Jews or
20 Jewish institutions made up 60.3 percent of all religious-based hate crimes; and

21 WHEREAS, over the past year, Kentucky has seen a series of anti-Semitic
22 incidents, including hateful flyers, threatening phone calls to a Rabbi, disturbing training
23 courses being used by the state, vandalism at a Jewish student center, and an assault at a
24 Chabad Menorah Lighting during the festival of Chanukah; and

25 WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to ensure the safety and security of Jewish
26 communities, including synagogues, schools, cemeteries, and other institutions; and

27 WHEREAS, Jews are the targets of anti-Semitic violence at even higher rates in

1 many other countries than they are in the United States; and

2 WHEREAS, anti-Semitism includes blaming Jews when things go wrong; calling
3 for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology
4 or extremist view of religion; or making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or
5 stereotyped allegations about Jews; and

6 WHEREAS, Jewish people are subject in the media and political campaigns to
7 numerous other dangerous, anti-Semitic myths as well, including that Jews control the
8 United States government or seek global, political, and financial domination and that
9 Jews are obsessed with money; and

10 WHEREAS, scapegoating and targeting Jews in the United States has persisted for
11 many years; and

12 WHEREAS, accusing Jews of being more loyal to Israel or to the Jewish
13 community than to the United States constitutes anti-Semitism because it suggests that
14 Jewish citizens cannot be patriotic Americans and trusted neighbors, when Jews have
15 loyally served our nation every day since its founding, whether in public or community
16 life or military service; and

17 WHEREAS, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance has published a
18 working definition of anti-Semitism, and this definition has been adopted by many
19 international and national organizations, including the United States State Department
20 and United States Department of Education; and

21 WHEREAS, the violation of an individual's civil rights based on his or her actual or
22 perceived membership in a particular religious group clearly violates the Constitution and
23 laws of the United States; and

24 WHEREAS, all Americans, and people of all faiths and no faith, have a stake in
25 fighting anti-Semitism, as all Americans have a stake in fighting every form of bigotry
26 and hatred against people based on religion, race, or place of birth and origin;

27 NOW, THEREFORE,

1 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the*
2 *Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

3 ➔Section 1. This body rejects the perpetuation of anti-Semitic stereotypes in the
4 United States and around the world, including the pernicious myth of dual loyalty and
5 foreign allegiance, especially in the context of support for the United States-Israel
6 alliance.

7 ➔Section 2. This body condemns anti-Semitic acts and statements as hateful
8 expressions of intolerance that are contradictory to the values that define the people of the
9 Commonwealth of Kentucky.

10 ➔Section 3. This body acknowledges that anti-Semitism comes in many forms,
11 and adopts the definition of anti-Semitism from the International Holocaust
12 Remembrance Alliance.

13 ➔Section 4. This body rejects attempts to justify hatred or violent attacks as an
14 acceptable expression of disapproval or frustration over political events in the Middle
15 East or elsewhere.

16 ➔Section 5. This body encourages all public officials to confront the reality of
17 anti-Semitism to ensure that the Commonwealth of Kentucky will live up to the
18 transcendent principals of tolerance, religious freedom, and equal protection as embodied
19 in the Declaration of Independence and the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the
20 Constitution.