

1 A RESOLUTION supporting the University of Kentucky men's basketball team for
2 exercising their First Amendment rights.

3 WHEREAS, on January 9, 2021, before a game against the University of Florida,
4 the University of Kentucky men's basketball team knelt during the performance of the
5 National Anthem; and

6 WHEREAS, this act of protest was carried out by every player, manager, and coach
7 associated with the University of Kentucky; and

8 WHEREAS, the confluence of sports and political protest is common across the
9 sporting world, and has been in place for decades in the United States; and

10 WHEREAS, from the "raised fist" Black Power salutes during the 1968 Olympics
11 in Mexico City, to the continuing protests during the National Anthem during National
12 Football League games, to the National Basketball Association's vocal support of the
13 Black Lives Matter movement, athletes have used their unique positions of power and
14 notoriety to accelerate an understanding of the civil rights issues Americans of color still
15 face today; and

16 WHEREAS, these protests are rightfully protected by the First Amendment of the
17 United States Constitution; and

18 WHEREAS, these protests are supported by communities of color, and are
19 applauded by those citizens as worthwhile demonstrations seeking change and
20 understanding; and

21 WHEREAS, in this spirit, it is appropriate that this august body stand in support of
22 the University of Kentucky men's basketball team in their peaceful protest; and

23 WHEREAS, in so doing, the members of this body encourage all Kentuckians to
24 accept this protest as protected under the First Amendment, and to educate themselves on
25 the societal conditions people of color live with--both in Kentucky and across this nation--
26 -that led to such a protest;

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. The House of Representatives hereby supports the University of
4 Kentucky men's basketball team for exercising their First Amendment rights.

5 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a
6 copy of this Resolution to Representative Mary Lou Marzian.