

1 A RESOLUTION reflecting on the Ides of March, the abuse of power, and the
2 protection of the Republic.

3 WHEREAS, the Ides of March corresponds to March 15 on the Roman calendar;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, the Ides of March becomes a prescient theme in William Shakespeare's
6 play *Julius Caesar*, written in 1599; and

7 WHEREAS, in the play, Caesar is famously warned by the Soothsayer "beware the
8 Ides of March," and on March 15th is stabbed by Brutus on the steps of the Senate; and

9 WHEREAS, the significance of this historic act resonates even in our present day;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, those conspiring against Julius Caesar believed that he had abused his
12 power and was making motions to become emperor in perpetuity; and

13 WHEREAS, Shakespeare's play and the historical events behind it can be
14 understood as a testament to how power—political, monetary, or self-perceived—
15 corrupts even those men who are believed to be unimpeachable; and

16 WHEREAS, on this Ides of March, it is important that all those in this
17 Commonwealth be vigilant against those power grabs that might throw our democracy
18 into tumult; and

19 WHEREAS, in so doing, the members urge all Kentuckians to duly reflect on how
20 misplaced power can corrupt the firmament of our Republic and threaten the safety of our
21 communities;

22 NOW, THEREFORE,

23 ***Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the***
24 ***Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

25 ➔Section 1. The members of the House of Representatives, both individually and
26 collectively, reflect on the Ides of March on this day, and acknowledge the lesson that
27 Caesar's downfall can teach us about the abuse of power.

- 1 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a
- 2 copy of this Resolution to Representative Scott Wells.