

1 A RESOLUTION adopting the Charter of Compassion.

2 WHEREAS, compassion is the source of acts of kindness, and there is no law  
3 forbidding it; and

4 WHEREAS, compassion requires no investment of revenue or cause for budgetary  
5 concern; and

6 WHEREAS, adoption of a compassionate stance would cause the operation of  
7 government to run more smoothly; and

8 WHEREAS, there is no cause to veto such an outlook by the executive branch; and

9 WHEREAS, compassion seeks that no citizen be bereft of food, medical care, or  
10 shelter; and

11 WHEREAS, adoption of a compassionate stance by government officials would  
12 create an atmosphere of cooperation and understanding; and

13 WHEREAS, citizens would be energized by a compassionate outlook in their  
14 leaders; and

15 WHEREAS, a compassionate stance would seek equal opportunity for education  
16 and job opportunities for all citizens; and

17 WHEREAS, nonprofit organizations and faith communities should be of like mind  
18 with this initiative; and

19 WHEREAS, Louisville and Lexington have reaped volunteer labor and improved  
20 community spirit by citizen involvement in compassionate acts; and

21 WHEREAS, the Frankfort Interfaith Council and the United Nations Association  
22 Frankfort Chapter have held a community-wide meeting with the help of Compassionate  
23 Louisville to consider the adoption of such a measure to advance government, business,  
24 student affairs, and community harmony;

25 NOW, THEREFORE,

26 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the*  
27 *Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

1           ➔Section 1. The members of the House of Representative adopt the Charter of  
2 Compassion, to wit:

3           The principle of compassion lies at the heart of all religious, ethical, and spiritual  
4 traditions, calling us always to treat all others as we wish to be treated ourselves.  
5 Compassion impels us to work tirelessly to alleviate the suffering of our fellow  
6 creatures, to dethrone ourselves from the centre of our world and put another there,  
7 and to honour the inviolable sanctity of every single human being, treating  
8 everybody, without exception, with absolute justice, equity and respect.

9           It is also necessary in both public and private life to refrain consistently and  
10 empathically from inflicting pain. To act or speak violently out of spite, chauvinism,  
11 or self-interest, to impoverish, exploit, or deny basic rights to anybody, and to incite  
12 hatred by denigrating others—even our enemies—is a denial of our common  
13 humanity. We acknowledge that we have failed to live compassionately and that  
14 some have even increased the sum of human misery in the name of religion.

15           We therefore call upon all men and women to restore compassion to the centre of  
16 morality and religion ~ to return to the ancient principle that any interpretation of  
17 scripture that breeds violence, hatred, or disdain is illegitimate ~ to ensure that  
18 youth are given accurate and respectful information about other traditions, religions,  
19 and cultures ~ to encourage a positive appreciation of cultural and religious  
20 diversity ~ to cultivate an informed empathy with the suffering of all human  
21 beings—even those regarded as enemies.

22           We urgently need to make compassion a clear, luminous, and dynamic force in our  
23 polarized world. Rooted in a principled determination to transcend selfishness,  
24 compassion can break down political, dogmatic, ideological, and religious  
25 boundaries. Born of our deep interdependence, compassion is essential to human  
26 relationships and to a fulfilled humanity. It is the path to enlightenment, and  
27 indispensable to the creation of a just economy and a peaceful global community.

1           ➔Section 2. The members of the House of Representatives applaud the efforts of  
2 Louisville, Lexington, and Frankfort relating to the Charter of Compassion and recognize  
3 that, with compassion, we are better equipped to unite and represent the needs of the  
4 citizens of the Commonwealth.