

1           A JOINT RESOLUTION requiring masks to be worn in the Capitol Annex and  
2 third and fourth floors of the Capitol during the 2021 Regular Session.

3           WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and  
4 Human Services Secretary Alex Azar declared a public health emergency for the novel  
5 coronavirus (COVID-19), beginning on January 27, 2020; and

6           WHEREAS, COVID-19, a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or  
7 death, is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is a new strain of coronavirus that had  
8 not been previously identified in humans and can easily spread from person to person;  
9 and

10          WHEREAS, the United States is currently experiencing a surge in COVID-19  
11 infections, hospitalizations, and deaths; and

12          WHEREAS, on December 9, 2020, over 209,000 new COVID-19 infections were  
13 detected, over 106,000 were sick enough to be hospitalized, and over 3,000 Americans  
14 died of COVID-19, the highest single-day total to date; and

15          WHEREAS, the total number of COVID-19 related deaths on December 9, 2020  
16 surpassed the number of Americans killed on 9/11; and

17          WHEREAS, as of December 9, 2020, the United States had over 15 million  
18 COVID-19 cases, and over 285,000 deaths, with the death toll projected to pass 450,000  
19 by February; and

20          WHEREAS, as of December 10, 2020, Kentucky reported a daily total of 4,324  
21 COVID-19 cases, the largest daily total ever; and

22          WHEREAS, as of December 10, 2020, Kentucky had over 213,000 cases and over  
23 2,100 deaths; and

24          WHEREAS, a study from the United States Centers for Disease Control and  
25 Prevention (CDC) found that some persons infected with COVID-19 may not develop  
26 symptoms but could easily transmit the virus to others. Approximately 50 percent of  
27 COVID-19 transmissions came from persons having no symptoms; and

1           WHEREAS, the recent surge in COVID-19 infections, hospitalizations, and deaths  
2 prompted the CDC to warn on December 4, 2020 that the U.S. has entered a "phase of  
3 high-level transmission" and "consistent and correct" use of face masks are critical to  
4 taming the virus; and

5           WHEREAS, widespread mask use reduces the spread of the disease and prevents  
6 the virus from spreading to others, saving scores of lives and staving off economic  
7 damage; and

8           WHEREAS, a June analysis from Goldman Sachs estimated that a 15 percent  
9 increase in universal masking could prevent lockdowns and reduce associated losses of  
10 up to \$1 trillion; and

11           WHEREAS, previous studies demonstrated that wearing masks reduced the spread  
12 of the virus, and in a July 14, 2020 editorial published by the Journal of the American  
13 Medical Association, universal masking of health care workers in Massachusetts reduced  
14 the proportion of health care workers with symptoms testing positive for COVID-19 from  
15 14.7 percent to 11.5 percent, a 21 percent decrease; and

16           WHEREAS, in Springfield, Missouri, 139 clients of two hair salon stylists were  
17 exposed when the stylists exhibited symptoms and later tested positive; however, the  
18 stylists and almost all of the clients wore protective facial coverings and none of the 139  
19 clients exhibited symptoms; and

20           WHEREAS, as we embark on another legislative session in the era of COVID, we  
21 must remain vigilant in protecting fellow members of the General Assembly, legislative  
22 staff, and the general public; and

23           WHEREAS, the Finance and Administration Cabinet has allocated certain areas  
24 within the Capitol Annex and the third and fourth floors of the Capitol to the General  
25 Assembly and the Legislative Research Commission for control and use for the benefit of  
26 its members, staff, and the general public;

27           NOW, THEREFORE,

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

2       ➔Section 1. During the 2021 Regular Session, any person who enters the areas of  
3 the Capitol Annex controlled by the LRC and the third or fourth floors of the Capitol  
4 shall wear a mask or cloth face covering in all common areas.

5       ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives shall send a copy of this  
6 Resolution to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Speaker Pro Tempore,  
7 Majority Floor Leader, Majority Caucus Chair, Majority Whip, Senate President, Senate  
8 President Pro Tempore, Senate Majority Caucus Chair, Senate Majority Whip, House  
9 Minority Leader, House Minority Caucus Chair, House Minority Whip, Senate Minority  
10 Leader, Senate Caucus Chair and Senate Minority Whip.