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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Jews are the targets of anti-Semitic violence at even higher rates in
many other countries than they are in the United States; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE,
Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

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

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

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

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

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