

1 A RESOLUTION affirming the religious freedom of all Kentuckians.

2 WHEREAS, the United States Constitution established that government shall not
3 substantially burden a person's freedom of religion; and

4 WHEREAS, the Kentucky Constitution established that the right of worshipping
5 Almighty God according to the dictates of individuals' consciences is an inherent and
6 inalienable right; and

7 WHEREAS, it is well established that the right to act or to refuse to act in a manner
8 motivated by a sincerely held religious belief may not be burdened by the government;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, the free exercise of religion, in all of its myriad expressions, is a
11 significant component of Kentucky's historical heritage; and

12 WHEREAS, freedom of religion was integral to the founding of this nation, and
13 was treated as being of great importance by individuals who settled in the colonies in the
14 United States and the founders of the United States; and

15 WHEREAS, religious freedom was established by the founders "in law, as a
16 fundamental right and as a pillar of our Nation"; and

17 WHEREAS, Thomas Jefferson once wrote that "[n]o provision in our Constitution
18 ought to be dearer to man than that which protects the rights of conscience against the
19 enterprises of the civil authority"; and

20 WHEREAS, individuals who have studied the democracy of the United States from
21 an international perspective, such as Alexis de Tocqueville, have noted that religion plays
22 a central role in preserving the government of the United States because religion provides
23 the moral base required for democracy to succeed; and

24 WHEREAS, for countless people of the Commonwealth, faith is an integral part of
25 every aspect of daily life and is not limited to the homes, houses of worship, or doctrinal
26 creeds of those individuals; and

27 WHEREAS, "religious faith has inspired many of our fellow citizens to help build a

1 better Nation" in which "people of faith continue to wage a determined campaign to meet
2 needs and fight suffering," as expressed by the 43rd President of the United States in a
3 Presidential proclamation on Religious Freedom Day in 2003;

4 NOW, THEREFORE,

5 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the*
6 *Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

7 ➔Section 1. The House of Representatives affirms its support of the religious
8 freedom of all Kentuckians.

9 ➔Section 2. The House of Representatives affirms that all Kentuckians can be
10 unified in supporting religious freedom, regardless of differing individual beliefs, because
11 religious freedom is a fundamental human right.

12 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a
13 copy of this Resolution to Representative Shane Baker.