A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION requesting state and local officials and the judiciary to dedicate resources and adopt practices to preserve public investments.

WHEREAS, since antiquity, civilization has seen fit to memorialize people and events holding such significance in peoples' consciousness through the erection, acquisition, and subsequent dedication to the public of monuments, edifices, graves, and lands; and

WHEREAS, these monuments, edifices, graves, and lands are material representations of the ideals and values of the people who at the time erected, constructed, or preserved them; and

WHEREAS, through the inexorable cadence of time, each moment replete with human experience adding to the calculus of human existence since the moment before it, these monuments, edifices, graves, and lands -- these symbols of human experience -- accrete the ideals and values of the people gazing upon them and maintaining them; and

WHEREAS, while these monuments, edifices, graves, and lands, represent specific moments in history, they also represent investments of resources in many forms, whether that investment may be in the form of fiscal resources or an aggregation of physical labor for the construction or preservation of the monument, edifice, grave, or land, or, in some cases, a coalescing and subsequent accomplishment of an ideal or even a surrendering of lives that served as inspiration to the dedication of the monument, edifice, grave, or land; and

WHEREAS, being dedicated to the public, when the opinion of the people changes to such a collective degree as to trigger discourse relative to the disposition of a monument, edifice, or land, the executions of the results of that discourse should be through the auspices of those elected or appointed by the people through the laws of our lands; and

WHEREAS, when people, deface, damage, destroy, or otherwise dispose of these monuments, edifices, graves, and lands that are in the public care without availing
themselves of the processes established by the officials charged and entrusted with the
care of those monuments, edifices, graves, and lands, irreparable damage can be done,
and the monuments, edifices, graves, and lands may be lost forever while denying public
input into the ultimate disposition of the monuments, edifices, graves, and lands, and the
very rule of law itself is eroded, as the authority of those duly elected and appointed
leaders is eschewed; and

WHEREAS, the value of public property has been made manifest for decades in
public law, and, within our Commonwealth, state and local laws make the damaging of
such punishable in the form of incarceration and civil fine; and

WHEREAS, if public law is not upheld in all phases of its discharge, it is very
likely that the damage and destruction of many more monuments, edifices, graves, and
lands will continue unchecked;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of
Kentucky, the House of Representatives concurring therein:

⇒ Section 1. In order to preserve the investment of the people into publicly
dedicated monuments, edifices, graves, and lands, and to deal with the disposition of any
publicly dedicated monument, edifice, grave, or land when its disposition is brought into
question, leaders of our Commonwealth, leaders of county government, leaders of city
government, and leaders of any boards and commissions responsible for monuments,
edifices, graves, and lands are implored to make resources available for the protection of
these monuments, edifices, graves, and lands by ensuring adequate law enforcement
protection, and any other protections these leaders deem expedient for the protection of
the monuments, edifices, graves, or lands, as well as the citizens of the Commonwealth.

⇒ Section 2. In order to protect the monuments, edifices, graves, and lands extant
in the Commonwealth, through discouraging the damaging of publicly dedicated
monuments, edifices, graves, and lands, peace officers and prosecutors and other
members of the Kentucky Court of Justice, including county attorneys, Commonwealth's attorneys, and the Kentucky Attorney General, are strongly encouraged to charge and pursue the most stringent violations against such defacement and damage, and the judges of the Circuit, District, and appellate courts are strongly encouraged to impose and sustain sentences against persons convicted of these offenses to the maximum penalties permitted under law.

Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Mayor Bill Dieruf, President, Kentucky League of Cities, 100 E. Vine Street, Suite 800, Lexington, KY 40507; Boone County Judge/Executive Gary W. Moore, President, Kentucky Association of Counties, 400 Englewood Drive, Frankfort, KY 40601; Chief Art Ealum, President, in the care of Chief Shawn Butler, Executive Director, Kentucky Association of Chiefs of Police, 738 Timberline Drive, Villa Hills, KY 41017; Daniel Cameron, Kentucky Attorney General, Suite 118, 700 Capital Avenue, Frankfort, KY 40601; and Judge John D. Minton, Jr., Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Kentucky, State Capitol, Room 235, 700 Capital Avenue, Frankfort, KY 40601.