A RESOLUTION honoring the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has killed more than 531,000 Americans and has caused an untold amount of economic damage since its discovery in America in early 2020; and

WHEREAS, during this pandemic, all facets of American life and industry—from restaurants to healthcare to the delivery and sustainability of education—have been impacted in myriad ways; and

WHEREAS, this is true across this nation and it is also evident here in our Commonwealth, as more than 5,000 Kentuckians have lost their lives and countless local businesses have been damaged by this lethal disease and its economic repercussions; and

WHEREAS, since the dawn of this great Nation, tragedy, upheaval, and doubt have been met with courage, vision, and enduring leadership; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2021, President Joe Biden signed into law the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 in an act of unparalleled leadership; and

WHEREAS, March 11, 2021, was a symbolic date that marked the first anniversary of the World Health Organization's declaration that COVID-19 was a global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 is good public policy that will have several long-reaching effects on society and this country's ongoing war against COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Act is an essential piece of the American recovery effort because it will vitally improve an economy still hindered with the challenges of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Act will benefit the nation and Kentucky by giving 92 percent of adults in the Commonwealth, or three million people, a direct stimulus payment; and

WHEREAS, Kentuckians will see an extra $300 a week in unemployment benefits extended across several months; and

WHEREAS, 86 percent of Kentucky's children, or roughly one point one million children, will be positively impacted by the expanded child tax credit; and
WHEREAS, Kentucky state government will get $2.4 billion to spend on COVID-19-related expenses by the end of 2024; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky's K-12 schools will receive more than $2.1 billion, with $454 million going to higher education, $766 million to childcare-related assistance, and an estimated $17.8 million going to Head Start; and

WHEREAS, students across the Commonwealth will be able to return in-person to schools that are safer and more versatile as we move into a post-COVID-19 world; and

WHEREAS, in Kentucky and across this nation, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 will be most felt by low-income and middle-class families; and

WHEREAS, on this day, this body rightfully commemorates the signing of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021; and

WHEREAS, in so doing, the members thank all those in our nation's Capital who have stayed resolute during this crisis and who have kept the plight of less-privileged Americans in mind as they passed this historic legislation;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

⇒ Section 1. The members of the Senate, both individually and collectively, hereby honor the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

⇒ Section 2. The Senate grants all our leaders on the national, state, and local levels best of luck as they begin to enact the many provisions of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

⇒ Section 3. The Senate recognizes the economic devastation caused by COVID-19 and pays special commendation to Kentucky's business owners who will be positively impacted by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

⇒ Section 4. The Senate acknowledges the economic importance of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and its vital place in overcoming the challenges presented by
COVID-19.

Section 5. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Senator Gerald A. Neal.