

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 WHEREAS, scapegoating and targeting Jews in the United States have persisted for
27 many years; and

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

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

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

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

16 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

19 ➔Section 1. This body rejects the perpetuation of anti-Semitic stereotypes in the
20 United States around the world, including the pernicious myth of dual loyalty and foreign
21 allegiance.

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

25 ➔Section 3. This body acknowledges that anti-Semitism comes in many forms,
26 and adopts the definition of anti-Semitism from the International Holocaust
27 Remembrance Alliance: "Anti-Semitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be

1 expressed as hatred towards Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-
2 Semitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property,
3 toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities."

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

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