

1           A RESOLUTION calling on the Tigray People's Liberation Front, Oromo  
2 Liberation Front, and other belligerents to cease all hostilities, protect human rights, allow  
3 unfettered access for humanitarian relief, and cooperate with independent investigations  
4 of credible atrocity allegations pertaining to the conflicts in the Tigray, Amhara, Afar,  
5 Oromia and Benishangul-Gumuz regions of Ethiopia.

6           WHEREAS, the noble people of Ethiopia have nurtured and developed languages  
7 and religions that have endured harmoniously for three millennia as well as a proud and  
8 distinguished culture; and

9           WHEREAS, the United States and the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia  
10 share an important relationship and more than a century of diplomatic relations; and

11           WHEREAS, Ethiopia is the second most populous country in Africa and plays a key  
12 role in advancing security and stability across sub-Saharan Africa, including a role as a  
13 top contributor of uniformed personnel to United Nations peacekeeping missions; and

14           WHEREAS, tensions between Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's Prosperity Party and  
15 the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), which was the dominant party of the ruling  
16 coalition in Ethiopia until late 2019, escalated when the TPLF reneged and held elections  
17 in the Tigray region of Ethiopia on September 9, 2020, despite the decision by the federal  
18 government of Ethiopia to postpone general elections due to the COVID-19 pandemic;  
19 and

20           WHEREAS, the TPLF rejected the postponement of general elections and  
21 considered the extension of the term of the federal government of Ethiopia to be  
22 unconstitutional, while the federal government of Ethiopia deemed the Tigray regional  
23 elections as illegitimate, and subsequently, the members of the federal republic's  
24 parliament designated the TPLF a terrorist group; and

25           WHEREAS, the Tigray People's Liberation Front, Oromo Liberation Front, and  
26 other belligerents should cease their declaration of war on peace-loving citizens and  
27 against the democratically elected government; and

1           WHEREAS, in the early hours of November 4, 2020, the TPLF ordered a surprise  
2 treasonous attack on members of the Northern Command of the Ethiopian National  
3 Defense Force (ENDF) stationed in camps across Tigray leading to the death of more  
4 than 6,000 service men and women in the hands of their brothers in arms; and

5           WHEREAS, the Prime Minister of Ethiopia subsequently ordered a law-  
6 enforcement operation which eventually evolved into an armed conflict between ENDF  
7 and its allies on one side and TPLF on the other side, with thousands of deaths reported;  
8 and

9           WHEREAS, on November 28, 2020, the government of Ethiopia claimed victory in  
10 the conflict after taking Mekelle, the capital city of the Tigray region, with the Prime  
11 Minister of Ethiopia indicating a shift of focus to rebuilding the region and providing  
12 humanitarian assistance, while federal police worked to apprehend the rebelling leaders  
13 of TPLF; and

14           WHEREAS, in 2020, prior to the outbreak of fighting in the Tigray region, there  
15 were more than 1.8 million people internally displaced in Ethiopia, and approximately 2  
16 million people in the Tigray region were already in need of humanitarian assistance; and

17           WHEREAS, the ensuing conflict in the Tigray region has prompted more than  
18 61,000 Ethiopians to seek refuge in Sudan, has displaced as many as 500,000 people  
19 internally, and caused severe shortages of food, water, medical supplies, and other  
20 necessary goods for those who remain in the region; and

21           WHEREAS, the conflict has disrupted harvests, livelihoods, and supply chains in  
22 all the regions, and in the Amhara and Afar regions food and medical supplies have been  
23 looted, medical and school infrastructure have been destroyed, and impediments continue  
24 to constrain humanitarian responses with millions of people in need of food assistance in  
25 all of the conflict zones; and

26           WHEREAS, throughout the Tigray and adjacent regions, there has been a shutdown  
27 and disruption of electricity, banking, the Internet, and telephone services apparently

1 caused by both sides in the conflict with limited restoration of services to date; and

2 WHEREAS, journalists have been restricted from accessing much of the Tigray  
3 region, and several journalists have been arrested in connection to their coverage of the  
4 conflict, while one journalist working for the Tigray Mass Media Agency was killed; and

5 WHEREAS, although the government of Ethiopia entered into an agreement with  
6 the United Nations on November 29, 2020, to facilitate humanitarian access to the Tigray  
7 region, that access is not unfettered, and when such access was possible, humanitarian  
8 supplies and equipment, including delivery trucks, have been diverted to TPLF's war  
9 effort; and

10 WHEREAS, in March 2021, President Biden asked Senator Christopher Coons of  
11 Delaware to serve as an emissary to convey the President's concerns to the Prime Minister  
12 of the government of Ethiopia about the humanitarian crisis and human rights abuses in  
13 the Tigray region, and the risk of broader instability in the Horn of Africa; and

14 WHEREAS, President Biden signed an executive order in September 2021  
15 threatening to levy sanctions against the government of Ethiopia if steps were not taken to  
16 end the war in the Tigray region; and

17 WHEREAS, in November 2021, the Biden Administration removed Ethiopia from  
18 participation in the African Growth and Opportunity Act, a program to provide sub-  
19 Saharan African nations duty-free access, likely harming the 230,000 low-wage women  
20 who work in the purpose-built industrial parks, and having a severe adverse effect on the  
21 livelihoods of a total of nearly a million poor people; and

22 WHEREAS, the Biden Administration has also ensured all sides that the United  
23 States is impartial in its search for peace and stability in the Horn of Africa, and that its  
24 aim is not to impose a regime change by helping to oust the democratically elected  
25 government of Ethiopia; and

26 WHEREAS, the United States Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa, Jeffrey  
27 Feltman, said the parties in the conflict in the Tigray region of Ethiopia "don't seem

1 anywhere near" a cease-fire or peace talks and called the humanitarian conditions in the  
2 Tigray region "unacceptable," and a convoy of forty trucks of humanitarian assistance has  
3 been allowed since Feltman's return to Washington, D.C.;

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 urges the President and the Congress  
8 of the United States to call for the immediate cessation of the invasion by the Tigray  
9 People's Liberation Front in the Afar and Amhara regions of Ethiopia and condemns in  
10 the strongest terms all violence against civilians. Furthermore, the House of  
11 Representatives encourages the strengthening of democratic institutions and improved  
12 respect for fundamental human rights in Ethiopia.

13 ➔Section 2. The House of Representatives encourages the President and the  
14 Congress of the United States to use every possible means at their command to examine  
15 and reexamine the policies relating to the political conditions that exist in Ethiopia with a  
16 view to ceasing hostilities among belligerents, protecting human rights, allowing  
17 unfettered access for humanitarian relief, and cooperating with independent investigations  
18 of credible atrocity allegations pertaining to the conflict in the Tigray and the Amhara and  
19 Afar regions of Ethiopia, with the goal of lifting the unnecessary sanctions, under the  
20 African Growth and Opportunity Act, on that otherwise friendly and historically  
21 responsible country.

22 ➔Section 3. In the pursuit of peace, the House of Representatives urges the  
23 President and the Congress of the United States to make certain that they refrain from  
24 acting in such a way as to endanger the unity and territorial integrity of Ethiopia, avoid  
25 setting up one Ethiopian ethnic group against another, pursue an unbiased approach to  
26 finding a peaceful solution, and allow Ethiopians to have a final say on how their nation  
27 is to proceed.

1           ➔Section 4. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is hereby directed to  
2 transmit a copy of this Resolution to: the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the  
3 United States, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20500; the Honorable  
4 Kamala D. Harris, Vice President of the United States, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW,  
5 Washington, D.C. 20500; the Honorable Antony J. Blinken, Secretary of State, U.S.  
6 Department of State, 2201 C Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20520; Ambassador Fitsum  
7 Arega, Embassy of Ethiopia, 3506 International Drive NW, Washington, D.C. 20008;  
8 Representative Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House, 1236 Longworth House Office  
9 Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; Senator Chuck Schumer, Senate Majority Leader,  
10 322 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; and the Kentucky  
11 Congressional Delegation.