A RESOLUTION urging Congress to take appropriate steps in mitigating
cyberattacks and ransomware demands.

WHEREAS, cyberattacks are the result of compromised security, confidentiality, or
integrity of computerized data resulting in the unauthorized access of information
maintained by business entities, governmental entities, or individuals; and

WHEREAS, ransomware is a type of malware designed by cyber hackers to block
access to computerized data by encrypting or locking data and extorting ransom payments
from victims in exchange for decrypting and restoring data; and

WHEREAS, cyberattacks and ransomware attacks are becoming more prevalent as
online payment methods and cyber hacking techniques evolve and become more
accessible, sophisticated, and focused; and

WHEREAS, the average ransom paid by organizations in the United States
increased from an estimate of $100,000 dollars in 2019 to $300,000 dollars in 2020; and

WHEREAS, the average known ransomware profits in 2021 were about
$570,000,000 dollars; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, a business fell victim to ransomware attacks every 14 seconds
and experts estimate that attacks occurred every 11 seconds in 2021; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, ransomware payments
increased dramatically and hackers focused on industries least likely to be able to deal
with operational shut downs, such as schools, healthcare entities, and governmental
entities; and

WHEREAS, in the likelihood that ransomware attacks continue to increase,
business and governmental entities will suffer significant consequences such as financial
losses associated with remediation efforts, disrupted business operations, damaged
company reputation, disrupted domestic supply chains, business trade secrets and
customer information threatened to be compromised, personal and sensitive information
threatened to be leaked, and temporary or permanent loss of important data; and
WHEREAS, business entities of all sizes and across all industries are being targeted by ransomware, which will ultimately obstruct interstate commerce and hinder economic growth; and

WHEREAS, facilitating a ransomware payment enables criminals and adversaries to profit and ultimately encourages future attacks with no guarantee that the encrypted or locked data will be returned; and

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives proclaims its commitment to protect Kentucky businesses across all industries, maintain economic growth, and preserve stability by addressing ransomware at the root of the problem; and

WHEREAS, taking preventative measures against cyberattacks is needed in order to properly mitigate the damages from ransomware demands;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

⇒ Section 1. The House of Representatives, on behalf of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, supports federal action in mitigating cyberattacks and ransomware demands.

⇒ Section 2. The House of Representatives, on behalf of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, urges the United States Congress to take appropriate measures sufficient to protect the Commonwealth from cyberattacks and prevent ransomware demands.

⇒ Section 3. A copy of this Resolution shall be sent by the Clerk of the House of Representatives to the members of Kentucky's Congressional delegation.