

1 A RESOLUTION urging members of the General Assembly and the Kentucky
2 Congressional Delegation to reaffirm their commitment to the Constitution of the United
3 States and the Constitution of Kentucky.

4 WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States was founded on the separation of
5 powers into three separate but equal branches of government, and included checks and
6 balances on those powers to assure that no one branch of government overpowered the
7 others; and

8 WHEREAS, the founders took pains to ensure the appropriate balance between
9 states' rights, individual rights, and the ability of the government to act in the national
10 interest; and

11 WHEREAS, the founders ensured that the Constitution protected individual rights
12 over state regulation and overreach, barring states from discriminating against citizens of
13 other states and forbidding states to enact tariffs against one another, while preserving the
14 rights of states to protect their own interests by requiring extradition for those accused of
15 crimes in other states to trial in their home state; and

16 WHEREAS, after vigorous debate, and with great compromise and assurance, the
17 Bill of Rights was enshrined in the Constitution of the United States guaranteeing the
18 freedom of speech, protection from unreasonable search and seizure, right to due process
19 in criminal prosecutions, right to speedy trial by jury, and the prohibition of excessive
20 bail and cruel and unusual punishments; and

21 WHEREAS, using the Constitution of the United States as a template, but with an
22 added emphasis on the protection of individual rights and liberties, Kentucky adopted its
23 own constitution on July 1, 1792, which was adopted by Congress, making it the fifteenth
24 state in the union; and

25 WHEREAS, the Constitution of Kentucky, much like the Constitution of the United
26 States, contained a Bill of Rights to protect its citizens from the excesses and corruption
27 of government; and

1 WHEREAS, the Constitution of Kentucky has undergone three revisions since its
2 creation. Each successive revision added more protections and safeguards for individual
3 Kentuckians from excessive government overreach, often in response to corruption on the
4 part of elected officials; and

5 WHEREAS, revisions of the Constitution of Kentucky granted its citizens more say
6 in whom they elect by including more officials chosen by ballot; and

7 WHEREAS, constitutions are not perfection, but an experiment to making us a
8 more perfect union; and

9 WHEREAS, as elected officials, it is imperative that we serve to protect the
10 Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of Kentucky;

11 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

14 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate urge its members, members of the
15 General Assembly, and the Kentucky Congressional Delegation to reaffirm their
16 commitment to both the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of
17 Kentucky.

18 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate shall send a copy of this Resolution to
19 Senator Gerald Neal.