

1 A RESOLUTION condemning any and all manifestations of antisemitism.

2 WHEREAS, the Jewish-American experience is a story of faith, fortitude, and  
3 progress and is connected to key tenets of American identity; and

4 WHEREAS, generations of Jewish people have come to this Nation fleeing  
5 oppression, discrimination, and persecution in search of a better life for themselves and  
6 their children; and

7 WHEREAS, these Jewish-Americans have created lives for themselves and their  
8 families and played indispensable roles in our Commonwealth's civic and community  
9 life, making invaluable contributions to our Commonwealth through their leadership and  
10 achievements; and

11 WHEREAS, on August 21, 1790, President George Washington sent a letter to the  
12 Hebrew Congregation of Newport, Rhode Island, expressing that the newly formed  
13 United States would be a Nation that "gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no  
14 assistance" and that the Jewish people should "dwell in this land, [and] continue to merit  
15 and enjoy the good will of the other Inhabitants...and there shall be none to make him  
16 afraid"; and

17 WHEREAS, alongside this narrative of achievement and opportunity, there is also a  
18 history, far older than the Nation itself, of racism, bigotry, and other forms of prejudice  
19 manifesting in the scourge of antisemitism; and

20 WHEREAS, antisemitism is an insidious form of prejudice stretching back  
21 millennia that attacks the humanity of the Jewish people and has led to violence,  
22 destruction of lives and communities, and genocide; and

23 WHEREAS, conspiracy theories that Jews are uniquely evil and influential has led  
24 to mass killings of Jews throughout time, including the poisonous Nazi ideology that  
25 resulted in the murder of 6 million Jews, including 1.5 million Jewish children, and  
26 millions of other victims of the Nazis in Europe; and

27 WHEREAS, over the course of the past decade, Holocaust distortion and denial has

1 grown in intensity; and

2 WHEREAS, recent surveys of Holocaust knowledge among millennials and Gen Z  
3 in the US found a shocking lack of historical information, including 63 percent of  
4 respondents who did not know that 6 million Jews were murdered during the Holocaust  
5 and 36 percent who thought that "two million or fewer Jews" were killed; and

6 WHEREAS, there is a documented and dangerous rise of antisemitism globally and  
7 in the United States, where Jews are increasingly affected by the grotesque spread of  
8 misinformation and lies including blame for the spread of COVID-19, false claims  
9 including the control of the media and the financial system, accusations of dual loyalty,  
10 and a multitude of negative stereotypes; and

11 WHEREAS, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, there has been a  
12 troubling rise of antisemitism in the United States, including acts of violence,  
13 intimidation, and radicalization on college campuses; and

14 WHEREAS, the Kentucky Jewish Council's Antisemitism Report 2022 recorded  
15 over 30 serious incidents of antisemitism in the commonwealth in 2022, including  
16 attempted murder, threats against Jewish institutions, and use of dangerous tropes in  
17 politics and media; and

18 WHEREAS, the Kentucky Jewish Council's chairman, Rabbi Shlomo Litvin,  
19 presented the Antisemitism Report 2022 to members of the Kentucky Legislature, the  
20 Office of the Governor, the Office of the Attorney General, and the public, and included a  
21 call for action; and

22 WHEREAS, this rise in antisemitism is matched by a national trend, including a  
23 167 percent increase in 2021 over the previous year, a terrorist taking members of the  
24 Jewish community hostage in Colleyville, Texas, and recurring violence on the streets of  
25 New York City; and

26 WHEREAS, this rise in hate has also been seen online, including promotion of  
27 antisemitic cults by NBA player Kyrie Irving, unhinged ranting by neo-Nazi Nick

1 Fuentes, and most troubling, repeated threats and antisemitic diatribes by international  
2 icon Kanye West, which inspired a tremendous wave of antisemitic sentiment; and

3 WHEREAS, this disturbing trend is also seen internationally, with violence against  
4 Jews on the streets of London, Berlin, and across France, continued calls for Jewish  
5 extermination and Holocaust denial from Iran, and frequent attacks on Jewish civilians in  
6 Israel; and

7 WHEREAS, in 2021, Kentucky became the first state in the United States to accept  
8 the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's Definition of Antisemitism,  
9 supported by the Jewish community around the world, as a tool to recognize and combat  
10 this pernicious hatred; and

11 WHEREAS, the rise in antisemitism goes against the values of the United States of  
12 America and the Commonwealth of Kentucky, as well as the morals of our society;

13 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

16 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate both individually and collectively,  
17 hereby:

18 (1) Call on elected officials, faith leaders, and civil society leaders to use their  
19 bully pulpit to condemn and combat any and all manifestations of antisemitism;

20 (2) Call on elected officials to condemn and combat any and all denials and  
21 distortions of the Holocaust and to promote Holocaust and antisemitism education;

22 (3) Call on social media platforms and local print media to institute stronger and  
23 more significant efforts to measure and address antisemitism on their platforms while  
24 protecting free speech concerns;

25 (4) Commit to ensuring the safety, security, and dignity of Jewish Kentuckians in  
26 all aspects of their lives, including the workplace, college and university campuses,  
27 synagogues, and at home, and the development of these measures; and

1           (5) Support the right of Kentuckians to freely exercise their religious beliefs and  
2 reject all forms of terror and hate.

3           ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this  
4 Resolution to Senator Donald Douglas for presentation.