

1 A RESOLUTION honoring and expressing support for law enforcement officers in
2 Kentucky and throughout the United States.

3 WHEREAS, more than 800,000 law enforcement officers in the United States risk
4 their lives daily to serve and protect their communities, including more than 7,000
5 officers within the Commonwealth of Kentucky; and

6 WHEREAS, dating back to 1786, there have been more than 24,000 law
7 enforcement officers who have fallen in the line of duty. The names of those heroes are
8 inscribed on the walls of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, and among
9 them are 670 from the Commonwealth of Kentucky; and

10 WHEREAS, this nation's law enforcement officers perform their difficult and
11 dangerous job honorably and professionally, with the overwhelming majority of
12 Americans having responded positively to their interactions with law enforcement
13 officers; and

14 WHEREAS, the innovative and dedicated efforts of law enforcement officers have
15 successfully reduced crime rates over the past three decades from the historic highs
16 experienced in the 1990s; and

17 WHEREAS, the environment for law enforcement officers has become increasingly
18 more hostile, and their safety has become more precarious, with over 79,000 law
19 enforcement officers having been assaulted by criminals in 2023, the highest law
20 enforcement officer assault rate in the past 10 years, and 1,055 officers having been shot
21 during the past three years, with 172 killed in the line of duty; and

22 WHEREAS, more than 2,500 law enforcement officers in the United States have
23 died in the line of duty during the past decade; and

24 WHEREAS, law enforcement officers typically encounter between 400 and 600
25 traumatic events during their careers, compared with three or four for the average citizen;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, the unusually high number of traumatic events experienced by law

1 enforcement officers has contributed to a 54 percent higher suicide rate among law
2 enforcement officers than among other workers in the United States; and

3 WHEREAS, the number of full-time state and local law enforcement officers
4 dropped by 5.3 percent between 2019 and 2021, the equivalent of nearly 37,000 fewer
5 officers, resulting in a dangerously low number of sworn officers to serve and protect
6 communities in the nation; and

7 WHEREAS, supporting law enforcement officers with the equipment, training, and
8 funding needed to protect American communities from criminal violence has long
9 received overwhelming public support from across the political spectrum;

10 NOW, THEREFORE,
11 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the*
12 *Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

13 ➔Section 1. The House of Representatives expresses its highest respect to law
14 enforcement officers and values their service within the Commonwealth of Kentucky and
15 throughout the United States of America.

16 ➔Section 2. The House of Representatives furthermore expresses its highest
17 honor to those self-sacrificing law enforcement officers who have died or been injured in
18 the line of duty, and concurrently honors the brave families of those officers.

19 ➔Section 3. The House of Representatives urges the federal government and local
20 governments to take further measures to maximize the safety and well-being of law
21 enforcement officers throughout their jurisdictions by recruiting and retaining more law
22 enforcement officers; improving the training and equipping of law enforcement officers;
23 ensuring, when given the jurisdiction, harsh penalties are in place for assaulting or killing
24 law enforcement officers; increasing mental health resources for law enforcement
25 officers; and ensuring that law enforcement officers receive the support and resources
26 they need to keep safe the citizens of not only the Commonwealth, but also the entire
27 United States. Furthermore, the House of Representatives entreats the Senate to join with

- 1 it in promoting these measures to the extent of each chamber's powers.
- 2 ➔Section 4. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a
- 3 copy of this Restitution to Representative Kim Banta.