

1           A RESOLUTION honoring the accomplishments of the Hindu community in  
2 Kentucky.

3           WHEREAS, Hinduism is the third-largest religion in the world, with the belief in  
4 the concept that a person's actions and thoughts determine the course of life; and

5           WHEREAS, approximately one percent of the Kentucky's population identify as  
6 Hindu, with 200 to 250 Hindu families living in Bowling Green and the Hindu Temple of  
7 Kentucky serving near 1,500 Hindu families of Bhutanese, Nepalese, and Indian descent;  
8 and

9           WHEREAS, there are a growing number of Hindu temples opening throughout the  
10 state, with temples in Lexington, Louisville, Bowling Green, Owensboro, and Richmond;  
11 and

12           WHEREAS, both Hindus and Kentuckians have a strong sense of community, with  
13 a shared belief in the value of community service. The Hindu Temple of Kentucky hosts  
14 frequent fundraising events for local health initiatives, statewide health services, and  
15 assistance with government programs and national relief funds, members of the Hindu  
16 community in Louisville gathered to repaint the Swaminarayan Temple and raised  
17 approximately \$3,500 in donations for the Coalition for the Homeless in Louisville; and

18           WHEREAS, like Kentuckians, Hindus want strong values in their children. The  
19 Hindu Temple of Kentucky offers Hindu religion classes for children and teenagers, hosts  
20 community activities, and provides resources for the Hindus in Kentucky, with the  
21 objectives to "build character and self-esteem" and to "empower children and youth...to  
22 become positive contributors to society." Similarly, the recent construction of a Hindu  
23 temple in Richmond was built in large part to instill "good morals and character" in  
24 youth; and

25           WHEREAS, Hindus and Kentuckians are strongly committed to family, hospitality,  
26 and fostering a welcoming environment. The inspiration for Tyler Childers's song "Tirtha  
27 Yatra" comes from his experiences and interactions with Hindus and their religious

1 beliefs, emphasizing the value of Hindu culture and its connection to the values and  
2 culture of Kentucky; and

3 WHEREAS, people from across Kentucky gather to celebrate Hindu festivals and  
4 culture, with the gathering of people at the State Capitol for Diwali, the celebration of  
5 Holi in Louisville, and a recent proclamation by Governor Beshear designating  
6 November as Hindu American Awareness and Appreciation Month; and

7 WHEREAS, the traditions and culture of the Hindu community have made a  
8 profound impact on this state through shared customs, faith, hospitality and sense of  
9 community;

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 hereby recognizes the  
14 accomplishments of the Hindu community to Kentucky.

15 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a  
16 copy of this Resolution to Representative Nima Kulkarni.