

1           A RESOLUTION recognizing and celebrating the patriotic service and community  
2 contributions of veterans and the importance of protecting the earned benefits of our  
3 veterans from retaliatory and punitive measures.

4           WHEREAS, the people of Kentucky recognize and celebrate the patriotic service  
5 and community contributions of the more than 370,000 Kentucky veterans and their  
6 families, totaling over one million residents, who call our great Commonwealth their  
7 home; and

8           WHEREAS, the people of the Commonwealth and this nation have a First  
9 Amendment right to free speech, and the veterans of the United States Armed Forces  
10 have sacrificed for the protection of that exercise; and

11           WHEREAS, in recognition of veterans' vital contributions to our state economy and  
12 local communities, we voice full support for the preservation and protection of their  
13 earned benefits from any punitive elimination or reduction of their retiree pay, veteran  
14 healthcare, or disability compensation for any exercise of their First Amendment right of  
15 free speech; and

16           WHEREAS, the right to free speech was a central impetus for the American  
17 Revolution, and America's veterans, from the camps of Valley Forge to the deserts of  
18 Afghanistan, have stood time and time again to protect this uniquely American idea of  
19 free speech; and

20           WHEREAS, Kentucky veterans have faithfully served the nation, and we  
21 steadfastly honor their service by protecting their earned benefits and right to free speech.  
22 There would be no right to free speech were it not for America's veterans; and

23           WHEREAS, any punitive risk that unjustly threatens Kentucky veterans' benefits  
24 would severely impact our 370,000 veterans and their families; and

25           WHEREAS, volumes of First Amendment case law have been promulgated  
26 because of the speech of veterans advocating for their hard-earned rights; and

27           WHEREAS, to disenfranchise one veteran can disenfranchise all veterans;

1           NOW, THEREFORE,

2       *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of*  
3       *Kentucky:*

4           ➔Section 1. The Senate hereby recognizes and celebrates the patriotic service and  
5       community contributions of veterans and the importance protecting the earned benefits of  
6       our veterans from retaliatory and punitive measures.

7           ➔Section 2. The Senate stands with our military veterans in advocating for their  
8       right to free speech and the protection of their earned retirement, healthcare, and  
9       disability benefits from specious claims.

10          ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this  
11       Resolution to Senator Reginald Thomas.