

1           A RESOLUTION asserting the constitutional authority of the General Assembly  
2 with respect to the impeachment power; suspending action on the Articles of  
3 Impeachment against Julie Muth Goodman, Circuit Judge for the 22nd Judicial Circuit;  
4 and expressing the will of the Senate that the Judicial Conduct Commission conduct  
5 public proceedings concerning serious allegations of misconduct in office by Judge  
6 Goodman and take appropriate action to sanction and reprimand her, upon a finding of  
7 good cause.

8           WHEREAS, Section 66 of the Constitution of Kentucky vests the sole power of  
9 impeachment with the House of Representatives; and

10          WHEREAS, Section 67 of the Constitution of Kentucky provides that all  
11 impeachments shall be tried by the Senate; and

12          WHEREAS, Section 68 of the Constitution of Kentucky provides that all civil  
13 officers are liable to impeachment for any misdemeanors in office; and

14          WHEREAS, Section 109 of the Judicial Article of the Constitution of Kentucky  
15 provides, "The impeachment powers of the General Assembly shall remain inviolate";  
16 and

17          WHEREAS, on January 20, 2026, the House Committee on Committees created a  
18 House Impeachment Committee and appointed members to review citizen petitions filed  
19 with the House Clerk; and

20          WHEREAS, on January 28, 2026, the Clerk of the House of Representatives  
21 received a petition filed by a private citizen calling for the impeachment of Julie Muth  
22 Goodman, Circuit Judge for the 22nd Judicial Circuit, and identifying six cases that  
23 alleged abuses of both judicial discretion and authority; and

24          WHEREAS, the petition filed regarding Judge Goodman was referred to the House  
25 Impeachment Committee on January 29, 2026; and

26          WHEREAS, on January 30, 2026, the House Impeachment Committee transmitted  
27 a letter to Judge Goodman providing a copy of the petition and providing her the

1 opportunity to respond to the petition; and

2 WHEREAS, on January 30, 2026, the House Impeachment Committee inquired of  
3 the Judicial Conduct Commission as to any ongoing investigations of Judge Goodman,  
4 and on February 3, 2026, the Judicial Conduct Commission informed the House  
5 Impeachment Committee that it declined to provide any information; and

6 WHEREAS, on February 23, 2026, Judge Goodman, through her counsel,  
7 transmitted a written response to the petition to the House Impeachment Committee; and

8 WHEREAS, following the response, the House Impeachment Committee  
9 designated March 16, 2026, as a hearing date; and

10 WHEREAS, notice of the hearing was provided to Judge Goodman and  
11 acknowledged by her counsel on March 3, 2026; and

12 WHEREAS, the House Impeachment Committee heard testimony on March 16,  
13 2026, from Judge Goodman and her attorneys; from Kimberly Baird, Esq., the  
14 Commonwealth's attorney for the 22nd Judicial Circuit; and from Doug Botkin, the  
15 surviving spouse of the victim killed when a vehicle driven by Cornell Thomas collided  
16 with the victim's vehicle; and

17 WHEREAS, the House Impeachment Committee independently reviewed various  
18 statements and actions made by Judge Goodman in conjunction with the testimony the  
19 committee received during the hearing on March 16, 2026; and

20 WHEREAS, acting on its own judgment and authority, the House Impeachment  
21 Committee found that Judge Goodman committed misdemeanors in office, constituting a  
22 reasonable basis upon which to recommend that Judge Goodman be impeached and  
23 removed from office; and

24 WHEREAS, in previous impeachment proceedings of a member of the Judicial  
25 Branch, the House has deferred action to allow the Judicial Conduct Commission to  
26 proceed; and

27 WHEREAS, the chair of the House Impeachment Committee filed and introduced

1 House Resolution 124 in the House of Representatives on March 18, 2026, including  
2 Articles of Impeachment against Judge Julie Muth Goodman; and

3 WHEREAS, House Resolution 124 was adopted by the House of Representatives  
4 on March 20, 2026, by a bipartisan vote of 73-14; and

5 WHEREAS, pursuant to House Resolution 124, the Speaker of the House of  
6 Representatives appointed a committee to prosecute the Articles of Impeachment before  
7 the Senate; and

8 WHEREAS, pursuant to House Resolution 124, the chair of the committee  
9 appointed to prosecute the Articles of Impeachment did lay the Articles before the  
10 Senate; and

11 WHEREAS, the Senate received the Articles of Impeachment and, on March 27,  
12 2026, adopted Senate Resolution 200, thereby resolving itself into a Court of  
13 Impeachment for the purpose of hearing the impeachment and adopting Rules Governing  
14 the Senate of the Commonwealth of Kentucky Sitting as a Court of Impeachment; and

15 WHEREAS, despite numerous authorities holding that the Kentucky Supreme  
16 Court does not have the authority to use a supervisory writ to control the General  
17 Assembly's plenary power over impeachment, the Supreme Court nonetheless issued  
18 such a writ by its Opinion and Order; and

19 WHEREAS, despite the fact that no member of the Senate was a party to the  
20 litigation instituted by Judge Goodman, the Supreme Court nonetheless purported to  
21 enjoin the General Assembly from any further proceedings regarding the impeachment of  
22 Judge Goodman and purported to order the General Assembly to dismiss the  
23 impeachment against her; and

24 WHEREAS, despite numerous authorities holding that the power of impeachment  
25 is solely given to the legislative branch of government to act as a constitutional check on  
26 the executive and judicial branches of government, the Supreme Court nonetheless  
27 attempted to usurp the General Assembly's power of impeachment by declaring in its

1 Opinion and Order that House Resolution 124 and the impeachment proceedings against  
2 Judge Goodman were void ab initio; and

3 WHEREAS, despite numerous authorities holding that the constitution reserves to  
4 the General Assembly the power to determine what constitutes an impeachable offense,  
5 and that any determination by the General Assembly in that regard is a non-justiciable  
6 political question, the Supreme Court nonetheless concluded in its Opinion and Order,  
7 without the benefit of a full record or briefing, that it alone could decide that the  
8 allegations against Judge Goodman did not rise to the level of a misdemeanor in office  
9 under the Constitution of Kentucky; and

10 WHEREAS, despite numerous authorities holding that judges are subject to  
11 impeachment for not only criminal conduct but also for abuses in office, including the  
12 specific Kentucky precedent of the 1916 impeachment of County Judge J.E. Williams,  
13 the Supreme Court nonetheless declared in its Opinion and Order that the power to  
14 govern non-criminal conduct of judges within the Commonwealth of Kentucky related to  
15 their office is vested solely within the Judicial Conduct Commission created under  
16 Section 121 of the Constitution of Kentucky; and

17 WHEREAS, the opinion of the Supreme Court confirmed that Judge Goodman is  
18 currently under investigation by the Judicial Conduct Commission; and

19 WHEREAS, since the publication of the Supreme Court's opinion on April 6, 2026,  
20 the Senate has received anecdotal evidence of the chilling impact on the public's right to  
21 address problems with the judicial branch as well as fears of potential retaliation;

22 NOW, THEREFORE,

23 ***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of***  
24 ***Kentucky:***

25 ➔Section 1. In reliance on the Kentucky Supreme Court's disclosure that the  
26 Judicial Conduct Commission is currently investigating Judge Julie Muth Goodman's  
27 conduct, the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky

1 suspends action on the Articles of Impeachment against Judge Goodman without  
2 deciding whether her conduct constitutes misdemeanors in office warranting her  
3 conviction and removal from office.

4       ➔Section 2. The Judicial Conduct Commission should immediately conduct open  
5 and public proceedings concerning serious allegations of misconduct by Julie Muth  
6 Goodman, Circuit Judge for the 22nd Judicial Circuit, consisting of Fayette County,  
7 including but not limited to allegations that Judge Goodman abused the powers of the  
8 office she holds; defied binding precedents established by the highest courts of this  
9 Commonwealth; defied statutes enacted by the General Assembly; defied rules of the  
10 Kentucky Court of Justice; and interfered with the rights and powers of the grand jury,  
11 trial court jurors, attorneys, and others to perform their respective roles within the  
12 Kentucky Court of Justice.

13       ➔Section 3. Upon a finding of good cause, the Judicial Conduct Commission  
14 should take all appropriate action to publicly sanction and reprimand Julie Muth  
15 Goodman, up to and including removing her from her position as Circuit Judge for the  
16 22nd Judicial Circuit, consisting of Fayette County.

17       ➔Section 4. Following the date on which the 2026 Regular Session of the General  
18 Assembly adjourns sine die, the Director of the Legislative Research Commission is  
19 hereby directed to collect all materials from the Clerks of the Senate and the House of  
20 Representatives related to the impeachment of Judge Goodman, and forward copies of  
21 those materials to the Judicial Conduct Commission for its review.

22       ➔Section 5. The Director of the Legislative Research Commission is also directed  
23 to maintain the original of all materials related to the impeachment of Judge Goodman  
24 during the 2026 Regular Session of the General Assembly for the reference,  
25 consideration, or action by any future General Assembly.

26       ➔Section 6. The suspension of proceedings at this time does not constitute a  
27 decision or judgment on the House of Representatives' Articles of Impeachment against

1 Judge Goodman, nor does it constitute any relinquishing of the right to do so under the  
2 proper circumstances in the future.

3 →Section 7. The Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of  
4 Kentucky declares that this resolution shall not be deemed an acquittal as that term is  
5 used in KRS 63.070(2).