

1       A RESOLUTION condemning all acts of political violence and affirming the civil  
2 and peaceful exercise of democracy.

3       WHEREAS, the principles of democracy and fundamental values of the  
4 Commonwealth of Kentucky rely on the peaceful contest of ideas and the engagement in  
5 productive civil discourse, and not the use of intimidation, violence, or assassination to  
6 resolve differences; and

7       WHEREAS, the use of hateful speech projecting societal fault onto any individual  
8 or group based on their race, religion, identity, or political beliefs creates a division  
9 among people and cultivates an environment that allows and promotes violence; and

10       WHEREAS, this Senate reaffirms the commitment to the principle that the  
11 legitimacy of a democratic republic depends upon the free exercise of a representative  
12 government and the ability for all citizens to participate without fear, intimidation or  
13 coercion; and

14       WHEREAS, the rhetoric and acts of violence committed against groups or  
15 individuals of differing ideologies or political parties are fueled by difference but share a  
16 common danger that erodes democratic participation, silences debate, intimidates  
17 individuals who are elected to serve, undermines the trust of the citizens, and threatens  
18 the integrity of government; and

19       WHEREAS, acts of political violence have no place in the Commonwealth of  
20 Kentucky, in the United States of America, or in any society that values freedom, justice,  
21 and the peaceful exercise of democracy; and

22       WHEREAS, political violence is not just a threat to the life and liberty of our  
23 elected officials, it is an attack on the right of all people to be represented;

24       NOW, THEREFORE,

25       ***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of***  
26       ***Kentucky:***

27       ➔Section 1. The Senate condemns all forms of political violence and the use of

1 speech that encourages hatred and violence against any individual or group based on their  
2 race, religion, identity, or political beliefs and reaffirms its commitment to ensuring the  
3 safety, dignity, and respect for all elected officials and citizens of the Commonwealth.

4 ➔Section 2. The Senate affirms that all political and ideological disputes shall be  
5 resolved through lawful, peaceful, and democratic means, and pledges to cultivate a  
6 culture of civil discourse. Further, the Senate recognizes that acts of political violence,  
7 intimidation, and threats degrade the dignity, safety, and integrity of this august body and  
8 all democratic institutions.