

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION calling on the Tigray People's Liberation Front,
2 Oromo Liberation Front, and other belligerents to cease all hostilities, protect human
3 rights, allow unfettered access for humanitarian relief, and cooperate with independent
4 investigations of credible atrocity allegations pertaining to the conflicts in the Tigray,
5 Amhara, Afar, Oromia and Benishangul-Gumuz regions of Ethiopia.

6 WHEREAS, the noble people of Ethiopia have nurtured and developed languages
7 and religions that have endured harmoniously for three millennia as well as a proud and
8 distinguished culture; and

9 WHEREAS, the United States and the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
10 share an important relationship and more than a century of diplomatic relations; and

11 WHEREAS, Ethiopia is the second most populous country in Africa and plays a key
12 role in advancing security and stability across sub-Saharan Africa, including a role as a
13 top contributor of uniformed personnel to United Nations peacekeeping missions; and

14 WHEREAS, tensions between Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's Prosperity Party and
15 the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), which was the dominant party of the ruling
16 coalition in Ethiopia until late 2019, escalated when the TPLF reneged and held elections
17 in the Tigray region of Ethiopia on September 9, 2020, despite the decision by the federal
18 government of Ethiopia to postpone general elections due to the COVID-19 pandemic;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, the TPLF rejected the postponement of general elections and
21 considered the extension of the term of the federal government of Ethiopia to be
22 unconstitutional, while the federal government of Ethiopia deemed the Tigray regional
23 elections as illegitimate, and subsequently, the members of the federal republic's
24 parliament designated the TPLF a terrorist group; and

25 WHEREAS, the Tigray People's Liberation Front, Oromo Liberation Front, and
26 other belligerents should cease their declaration of war on peace-loving citizens and
27 against the democratically elected government; and

1 WHEREAS, in the early hours of November 4, 2020, the TPLF ordered a surprise
2 treasonous attack on members of the Northern Command of the Ethiopian National
3 Defense Forces (ENDF) stationed in camps across Tigray leading to the death of more
4 than 6,000 service men and women in the hands of their brothers in arms; and

5 WHEREAS, the Prime Minister of Ethiopia subsequently ordered a law-
6 enforcement operation which eventually evolved into an armed conflict between ENDF
7 and its allies on one side and TPLF on the other side, with thousands of deaths reported;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, on November 28, 2020, the government of Ethiopia claimed victory in
10 the conflict after taking Mekelle, the capital city of the Tigray region, with the Prime
11 Minister of Ethiopia indicating a shift of focus to rebuilding the region and providing
12 humanitarian assistance, while federal police worked to apprehend the rebelling leaders
13 of TPLF; and

14 WHEREAS, in 2020, prior to the outbreak of fighting in the Tigray region, there
15 were more than 1.8 million people internally displaced in Ethiopia, and approximately 2
16 million people in the Tigray region were already in need of humanitarian assistance; and

17 WHEREAS, the ensuing conflict in the Tigray region has prompted more than
18 61,000 Ethiopians to seek refuge in Sudan, has displaced as many as 500,000 people
19 internally, and caused severe shortages of food, water, medical supplies, and other
20 necessary goods for those who remain in the region; and

21 WHEREAS, the conflict has disrupted harvests, livelihoods, and supply chains in
22 all the regions, and in the Amhara and Afar regions food and medical supplies have been
23 looted, medical and school infrastructure have been destroyed, and impediments continue
24 to constrain humanitarian responses with millions of people in need of food assistance in
25 all of the conflict zones; and

26 WHEREAS, throughout the Tigray and adjacent regions, there has been a shutdown
27 and disruption of electricity, banking, the Internet, and telephone services apparently

1 caused by both sides in the conflict with limited restoration of services to date; and

2 WHEREAS, journalists have been restricted from accessing much of the Tigray
3 region, and several journalists have been arrested in connection to their coverage of the
4 conflict, while one journalist working for the Tigray Mass Media Agency was killed; and

5 WHEREAS, although the government of Ethiopia entered into an agreement with
6 the United Nations on November 29, 2020, to facilitate humanitarian access to the Tigray
7 region, that access is not unfettered, and when such access was possible, humanitarian
8 supplies and equipment, including delivery trucks, have been diverted to TPLF's war
9 effort; and

10 WHEREAS, in March 2021, President Biden asked Senator Christopher Coons of
11 Delaware to serve as an emissary to convey the President's concerns to the Prime Minister
12 of the government of Ethiopia about the humanitarian crisis and human rights abuses in
13 the Tigray region, and the risk of broader instability in the Horn of Africa; and

14 WHEREAS, President Biden signed an executive order in September 2021
15 threatening to levy sanctions against the government of Ethiopia if steps were not taken to
16 end the war in the Tigray region; and

17 WHEREAS, in November 2021, the Biden Administration removed Ethiopia from
18 participation in the African Growth and Opportunity Act, a program to provide sub-
19 Saharan African nations duty-free access, likely harming the 230,000 low-wage women
20 who work in the purpose-built industrial parks, and having a severe adverse effect on the
21 livelihoods of a total of nearly a million poor people; and

22 WHEREAS, the Biden Administration has also ensured all sides that the United
23 States is impartial in its search for peace and stability in the Horn of Africa, and that its
24 aim is not to impose a regime change by helping to oust the democratically elected
25 government of Ethiopia; and

26 WHEREAS, the United States Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa, Jeffrey
27 Feltman, said the parties in the conflict in the Tigray region of Ethiopia "don't seem

1 anywhere near" a cease-fire or peace talks and called the humanitarian conditions in the
2 Tigray region "unacceptable," and a convoy of forty trucks of humanitarian assistance has
3 been allowed since Feltman's return to Washington, D.C.;

4 NOW, THEREFORE,

5 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the*
6 *Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Senate concurring therein:*

7 ➔Section 1. The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky calls for
8 the immediate cessation of the invasion by the Tigray People's Liberation Front in the
9 Afar and Amhara regions of Ethiopia and condemns in the strongest terms all violence
10 against civilians. Furthermore, the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky
11 encourages the strengthening of democratic institutions and improved respect for
12 fundamental human rights in Ethiopia.

13 ➔Section 2. The President and the Congress of the United States should be
14 encouraged to use every possible means at their command to examine and reexamine the
15 policies relating to the political conditions that exist in Ethiopia with a view to ceasing
16 hostilities among belligerents, protecting human rights, allowing unfettered access for
17 humanitarian relief, and cooperating with independent investigations of credible atrocity
18 allegations pertaining to the conflict in the Tigray and the Amhara and Afar regions of
19 Ethiopia, with the goal of lifting the unnecessary sanctions, under the African Growth and
20 Opportunity Act, on that otherwise friendly and historically responsible country.

21 ➔Section 3. In the pursuit of peace, the President and the Congress of the United
22 States should make certain that they refrain from acting in such a way as to endanger the
23 unity and territorial integrity of Ethiopia, avoid setting up one Ethiopian ethnic group
24 against another, pursue an unbiased approach to finding a peaceful solution, and allow
25 Ethiopians to have a final say on how their nation is to proceed.

26 ➔Section 4. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is hereby directed to
27 transmit a copy of this Concurrent Resolution to: the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.,

1 President of the United States, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20500;
2 the Honorable Kamala D. Harris, Vice President of the United States, 1600 Pennsylvania
3 Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20500; the Honorable Antony J. Blinken, Secretary of
4 State, U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20520;
5 Ambassador Fitsum Arega, Embassy of Ethiopia, 3506 International Drive NW,
6 Washington, D.C. 20008; Representative Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House, 1236
7 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; Senator Chuck Schumer,
8 Senate Majority Leader, 322 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; and
9 the Kentucky Congressional Delegation.