

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION declaring racism a public health and safety crisis and
2 demanding redress through current budgetary assets, resources, and capital across all
3 branches of government in Kentucky.

4 WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020-2021 is exposing intergenerational
5 and systemic racial and ethnic inequities in the health and safety of Kentuckians who are
6 black, indigenous, and people of color, when compared to white people; and

7 WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Medical
8 Association states that black, indigenous, and people of color can experience a lower
9 quality of care and are less likely to receive routine medical attention leading to higher
10 rates of morbidity and mortality compared to white people; and

11 WHEREAS, the American Public Health Association specifies racism as a force
12 behind many health inequities and clarifies that racism is socially constructed, with
13 myriad dimensions, from internalized and interpersonal to institutional and systemic; and

14 WHEREAS, systemic racism denotes a type of structural violence which occurs
15 when core societal institutions obstruct black, indigenous, and people of color to equal
16 access of assets, resources, and capital, over generations, while also prioritizing access of
17 assets, resources, and capital to white people; and

18 WHEREAS, the outcomes of systemic racism are universally detrimental to all
19 people, the impacts are specifically lethal to black families; and

20 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control reported in 2017 a national inequity
21 between black and white infant mortality rates, with black infants dying nearly 50% more
22 often than white infants--9.5 compared to 6.4 per 1,000 births; and

23 WHEREAS, the black maternal mortality rate in Kentucky in 2017 was at 49.1 per
24 100,000 live births while at 31.7 per 100,000 live births for white women; and

25 WHEREAS, black women are more likely to experience severe maternal morbidity,
26 which includes unexpected outcomes of pregnancy, labor, or delivery that result in
27 significant short- or long-term consequences to a woman's health; and

1 WHEREAS, the poverty rate for black Kentuckians (29%) was nearly twice the
2 poverty rate for white Kentuckians (15%), and the median income for black households
3 was \$33,600 while the median for white households is \$50,300 in 2017; and

4 WHEREAS, the Kentucky Department for Public Health data indicate that black
5 Kentuckians experience higher death rates for heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and cancer
6 compared to other racial groups, and have a life expectancy almost four years below the
7 state average; and

8 WHEREAS, black youth were nearly 43 percent of all detained youth statewide
9 while only representing just under 11 percent of the state's population in 2017; and

10 WHEREAS, police and law enforcement institutions compound the structural
11 violence and lethality of systemic racism by historically and disproportionately targeting
12 black, indigenous, and people of color, in all aspects of the criminal justice system;

13 NOW, THEREFORE,

14 ***Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

15 ➔Section 1. The members of the Kentucky General Assembly declare racism to
16 be a public health and safety crisis affecting the well-being of our entire state, and
17 demand redress through current budgetary assets, resources, and capital for racial equity
18 remedies to improve the immediate and long-term health, safety, and livelihood of all
19 Kentuckians.

20 ➔Section 2. The members of the Kentucky General Assembly call upon all
21 Commonwealth, local governments, and agencies to join Louisville, Lexington, and 143
22 more local governments across 27 states, to declare racism a public health and safety
23 crisis in order to dedicate current budgetary assets, resources, and capital to advance
24 racial equity remedies for the immediate and long-term health, safety and livelihood of all
25 Kentuckians.

26 ➔Section 3. The members of the Kentucky General Assembly are committed to
27 conducting all human resource, vendor selection, grants management, and law/policy-

1 making activities with a racial equity assessment, including reviewing all internal policies
2 and practices such as hiring, promotion, leadership appointments, and funding, to repair
3 and restore the health, safety, and livelihood of black, indigenous, and people of color in
4 Kentucky who have been harmed by systemic racism.

5 ➔Section 4. The members of Kentucky General Assembly are committed to
6 reviewing all portions of the Kentucky Revised Statutes with a racial equity assessment to
7 determine how to repair and restore the health, safety, and livelihood of black,
8 indigenous, and people of color in Kentucky harmed by systemic racism.

9 ➔Section 5. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit
10 copies of this resolution to the Governor.