

1 A RESOLUTION urging the President of the United States to rescind the
2 immigration ban and urging the Department of Homeland Security to comply with federal
3 court orders overturning the ban as quickly and efficiently as feasibly possible.

4 WHEREAS, the United States was founded as a refuge for those escaping religious
5 and political persecution; and

6 WHEREAS, wave after wave of immigrants seeking a better life have enriched our
7 nation's culture, increased our productivity and innovation, and bolstered our economy;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, President Donald J. Trump signed an executive order on January 27,
10 2017, that desecrates our American values and panders to fears and nativist instincts that
11 have resulted in some of our nation's most shameful acts; and

12 WHEREAS, the executive order bans individuals from the predominately Muslim
13 countries of Sudan, Syria, Yemen, Iran, Iraq, Libya, and Somalia from entering the United
14 States for 90 days, prevents all refugees from entering the United States for 120 days, and
15 indefinitely suspends the entry of refugees from Syria; and

16 WHEREAS, the executive order titled "Protecting the Nation From Foreign
17 Terrorist Entry Into the United States" ignores the fact that those being denied entry are
18 themselves victims of terrorism and are fleeing the savagery, death, and destruction of the
19 Syrian civil war and other countries; and

20 WHEREAS, the executive order is an affront to religious freedom—a principle so
21 cherished by our nation's founding fathers that it was included in the First Amendment to
22 the United States Constitution; and

23 WHEREAS, the executive order was executed in a haphazard manner without
24 having been fully vetted by the very departments charged with protecting our national
25 security, such as the federal Department of Homeland Security, the United States
26 Department of Justice, the United States Department of State, and the United States
27 Department of Defense; and

1 WHEREAS, as an immediate result of the executive order, individuals in
2 possession of current visas have already been detained or turned around at airports across
3 the country, resulting in chaos, confusion, deep anxiety, and hardship; and

4 WHEREAS, under this executive order, an estimated 134 million people are now
5 temporarily barred from entering or reentering the United States, in addition to hundreds
6 of thousands of current United States visa holders, including dual nationals who were
7 born in one of the impacted countries but who also have citizenship in another unlisted
8 country; and

9 WHEREAS, while President Trump has falsely stated there is no refugee-vetting
10 system in place, refugees are subjected to the most stringent vetting system of any traveler
11 seeking entry into the United States—a system that can take up to two years or longer to
12 complete; and

13 WHEREAS, while the executive order references the September 11, 2001, terrorist
14 attacks as justification for the ban, the 19 terrorists who carried out the attacks were from
15 countries not listed in the ban; and

16 WHEREAS, over fifty years ago, the federal Immigration and Nationality Act of
17 1965 banned all discrimination against immigrants on the basis of national origin, in
18 order to eliminate prejudice and bias from the immigration process and provide all
19 countries with equal access to the quotas; and

20 WHEREAS, the federal Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 explicitly limits
21 presidential authority by stating that no person could be "discriminated against in the
22 issuance of an immigrant visa because of the person's race, sex, nationality, place of birth,
23 or place of residence," and the only exceptions are those expressly granted by the United
24 States Congress; and

25 WHEREAS, the executive order seeks to resurrect discriminatory immigration
26 policies based on national origin and, therefore, is in direct violation of this long-standing
27 federal law; and

1 WHEREAS, the ban has been found to be illegal in federal district court and that
2 decision was upheld in the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals; and

3 WHEREAS, federal courts throughout the nation have also issued emergency stays,
4 which will stop federal officials from deporting individuals with approved refugee
5 applications, holders of valid visas, and people from the seven impacted countries who
6 have secured authorization to enter the United States;

7 NOW, THEREFORE,

8 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the*
9 *Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

10 ➔Section 1. The Kentucky General Assembly condemns this executive order as a
11 discriminatory overreach that illegally targets immigrants based on their national origin
12 and religions, and urges the President of the United States to immediately rescind the
13 executive order.

14 ➔Section 2. The Kentucky General Assembly urges the federal Department of
15 Homeland Security to comply with the federal court's orders as quickly as feasible and
16 immediately permit detained individuals to have timely access to legal counsel.

17 ➔Section 3. The Kentucky General Assembly commends the hundreds of
18 attorneys across the nation who volunteer their time and services to ensure the due
19 process rights and equal protection of these refugees and legal permanent residents, and
20 the thousands who have peacefully protested to uphold our American values.

21 ➔Section 4. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is ordered to transmit
22 copies of this Resolution to President Donald J. Trump, The White House, 1600
23 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20500; and John F. Kelly, Secretary of
24 Homeland Security, Washington, D.C. 20528.