

1 A RESOLUTION condemning anti-Semitism.

2 WHEREAS, it is appropriate that all those in this Commonwealth understand the
3 historical significance of the Jewish experience both across the world and in Kentucky,
4 and also take into account the deep wounds that anti-Semitism have inflicted in the past
5 and are still being inflicted wherever hatred rears its head; and

6 WHEREAS, the State Department cites the European Monitoring Center on Racism
7 and Xenophobia's definition of anti-Semitism as being "a certain perception of Jews,
8 which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews"; and

9 WHEREAS, the State Department further cites contemporary examples of anti-
10 Semitism as "calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews; making
11 mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews...or the
12 power of Jews as a collective; accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or
13 imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group; accusing the Jews
14 as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the holocaust; [or] accusing
15 Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews
16 worldwide, than to the interest of their own nations"; and

17 WHEREAS, Kentucky, with its longstanding credo of "United We Stand, Divided
18 We Fall," has, since its founding, served as a testament to the undying principles of
19 equality and tolerance for all; and

20 WHEREAS, in this spirit, this august body and all Kentuckians stand in defiant
21 solidarity against anti-Semitism; and

22 WHEREAS, this body also acknowledges the many threats across the world of the
23 destruction of the Jewish state, and recognizes that anti-Semitism continues to haunt all
24 corners of our world 74 years after the last concentration camp was liberated; and

25 WHEREAS, in recent weeks, anti-Semitic comments have been made by United
26 States Representative Ilhan Omar; leaders across the world similarly rely on tortured, evil
27 logic about the Jewish people to assert their own power; and

1 WHEREAS, on October 27, 2018, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, a lone gunman, one
2 who believed in the deluded theories that have buoyed anti-Semitic thought for
3 generations, walked into the Tree of Life synagogue and opened fire, killing eleven and
4 injuring seven; and

5 WHEREAS, the shooting was the deadliest attack on the Jewish community in
6 United States history; and

7 WHEREAS, because anti-Semitism remains a present, damaging force across the
8 globe and here in our own Commonwealth, and because the historical reasons for
9 denouncing anti-Semitism are so present in our history, this body and all Kentuckians
10 stand united on this day in solidarity with our Jewish friends; and

11 WHEREAS, this body further urges our elected officials in the United States
12 Congress, particularly Representative Ilhan Omar, to respect the deep historical
13 ramifications of anti-Semitic speech and thought, and to recall the core beliefs regarding
14 equality and religious freedom that shaped the very Constitution they were elected to
15 protect;

16 NOW, THEREFORE,

17 ***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of***
18 ***Kentucky:***

19 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate hereby condemn anti-Semitism in all its
20 forms in the world and here in this Commonwealth, and urge their elected leaders in
21 Washington, D.C., to swiftly and decisively rebuke any forms of anti-Semitism that may
22 arise among their membership in the future.

23 ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in deep respect for and
24 loyalty to our Jewish friends and to our most essential global ally, the State of Israel.

25 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
26 Resolution to Senator Ralph Alvarado.