

1 A RESOLUTION recognizing January 16th as National Religious Freedom Day.

2 WHEREAS, religious freedom is a shared principle that lies at the heart of this  
3 great Nation's commitment to liberty; and

4 WHEREAS, religious freedom is also a keystone to the United States' values, its  
5 guiding tenets, and its strength as a country; and

6 WHEREAS, our Founders had a deep appreciation and understanding for religion  
7 and how it shaped their burgeoning society, and they sought to ensure that religious  
8 liberty was a right Americans should never stop striving to uphold; and

9 WHEREAS, recognizing and respecting the strongly held religious views of others  
10 are the key to avoiding division and discrimination; and

11 WHEREAS, in so doing, this honorable body stands behind the First Amendment  
12 of the Constitution, which asserts that "Congress shall make no law respecting the  
13 establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof," and urges all citizens  
14 of this Commonwealth to defend the fundamental principles of religious liberty that our  
15 Founders so bravely expressed; and

16 WHEREAS, it is essential that the people of this Commonwealth are free to express  
17 their religious beliefs without fear of prejudice or bias, and that all Kentuckians feel safe  
18 in their expression of faith without the threat of intimidation because of those beliefs;

19 NOW, THEREFORE,

20 ***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of***  
21 ***Kentucky:***

22 ➔Section 1. The Senate rightfully embraces the shared belief that religious  
23 freedom is an inalienable right that is at the very heart of our strength as a just and law-  
24 abiding society.

25 ➔Section 2. The Senate hereby recognizes January 16th as National Religious  
26 Freedom Day.