

Senate Resolution 104 - Introduced

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 104

BY LOFGREN, SHIPLEY, REICHMAN, GUTH, BOUSSELOT,
COSTELLO, EVANS, SALMON, ROWLEY, WESTRICH, SCHULTZ,
ZUMBACH, DRISCOLL, SIRES, WARME, WHITVER, McCLINTOCK,
and TAYLOR

1 A Resolution recognizing and honoring the Young
2 Men's Christian Association (YMCA) on its 175th
3 anniversary.

4 WHEREAS, the YMCA marks its 175th anniversary,
5 having been founded in the United States on December
6 29, 1851, by Thomas Valentine Sullivan at the Old South
7 Church in Boston, inspired by the YMCA movement in
8 England and dedicated to putting Christian principles
9 into practice through programs that build healthy
10 spirits, minds, and bodies for all; and

11 WHEREAS, the YMCA, as one of the nation's leading
12 charitable nonprofits, has continually adapted to meet
13 evolving community needs, strengthening society by
14 bringing people together, fostering relationships, and
15 promoting belonging and connection; and

16 WHEREAS, the YMCA has a distinguished legacy that
17 includes providing safe housing during the industrial
18 revolution, pioneering the first night school and
19 English as a second language class, inventing the game
20 of basketball, delivering the first group swim lessons,
21 leading humanitarian efforts during wartime, including
22 the work of YMCA leader John R. Mott, recipient of
23 the 1946 Nobel Peace Prize, establishing the Youth and
24 Government Program in 1936, serving as the birthplace
25 of Father's Day in 1910, becoming the nation's leading

1 nonprofit provider of child care and afterschool
2 programs, and providing emergency child care and food
3 resources to frontline workers and families during the
4 COVID-19 pandemic; and

5 WHEREAS, today, more than 2,600 YMCAs serve over
6 10,000 communities in every state and territory of the
7 United States, supported by more than 300,000 staff
8 members and 350,000 volunteers who deliver essential
9 programs to over 17 million individuals annually,
10 including nearly 11 million adults and 6.5 million
11 children and youth; and

12 WHEREAS, YMCAs in the state of Iowa opened in the
13 late 1850s, and today, 47 YMCAs serve over 250,000
14 Iowans annually through the collective impact of more
15 than 5,000 staff and 8,000 volunteers, providing youth
16 development, healthy living, and social responsibility
17 programs across the state; and

18 WHEREAS, the YMCA is a national leader in
19 swim lessons, youth sports, camping, meal programs,
20 community wellness programs, chronic disease prevention
21 initiatives, and is the largest provider of fitness
22 programming for older adults in the United States; and

23 WHEREAS, the YMCA serves individuals of all ages,
24 backgrounds, and abilities, ensuring that all people
25 are welcome, respected, supported, and connected to
26 their community; and

27 WHEREAS, YMCAs nationwide continue to work toward
28 stronger and more connected communities by creating
29 intentional experiences that support achievement,
30 well-being, relationships, and opportunities to

1 thrive; and

2 WHEREAS, in 2026, YMCAs across the country will
3 host celebrations recognizing the people, programs,
4 and collective impact of 175 years of service to
5 communities nationwide; NOW THEREFORE,

6 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the Senate
7 congratulates and expresses appreciation to the YMCA
8 for 175 years of service to the nation; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Senate recognizes
10 the YMCA's role in responding to community
11 needs, fostering belonging, creating connection,
12 and supporting families and individuals across
13 generations; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Senate commends
15 the staff members and volunteers whose leadership
16 and service continues to advance the YMCA's mission
17 of building healthy spirits, minds, and bodies for
18 all; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Senate encourages
20 continued support for community-centered efforts that
21 reduce social isolation, promote well-being, and foster
22 environments where all people can build relationships
23 and thrive.