

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1730

A RESOLUTION celebrating the YMCA's 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and recognizing the YMCA's role in responding to community needs, connecting people, fostering support, building relationships and creating a sense of belonging.

WHEREAS, In 2026, the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) celebrates its 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary; and

WHEREAS, The YMCA was founded by Reverend Thomas Valentine Sullivan on December 29, 1851, at the Old South Church in Boston, Massachusetts, aimed at putting Christian principles in practice by dedicating a space for the building of a healthy spirit, mind and body for all; and

WHEREAS, Defining moments of the YMCA's history include: Providing safe housing during the Industrial Revolution; pioneering the first night school and English as a Second Language (ESL) courses; inventing basketball and volleyball; offering the first group swim lessons; leading wartime humanitarian efforts during the Second World War, with YMCA leader John R. Mott receiving the 1946 Noble Peace Prize for his wartime humanitarian efforts; establishing the Youth and Government Program in 1936, a premier civic engagement initiative that continues today; serving as the nation's leading nonprofit provider of child care and after-school programs since the 1970s; becoming the birthplace of Father's Day, holding the first celebration at the Spokane YMCA in 1910; and serving as the leading provider of emergency child care for front line workers and a significant provider of food during the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Today, 2,600 YMCAs serve more than 10,000 communities and provide essential programs to 10.8 million adults and 6.4 million children annually across the United States, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico; and

WHEREAS, The first YMCA in Kansas was founded in 1880 in Topeka, Kansas, to serve Topeka's railroad workers and their families; and

WHEREAS, In 2025, nine Kansas YMCA associations, through the collective impact of more than 3,700 employees and 6,000 volunteers, served over 500,000 Kansans, including over 169,000 youth, provided over 939,000 meals and snacks and delivered over \$10.5 million in financial assistance to ensure that all Kansans can access programs that strengthen their health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, The YMCA is a leading provider of swim lessons, camping, youth sports, meal programs, lifestyle health, fitness and well-being programs; and

WHEREAS, The YMCA is the largest provider of fitness programs for older adults and the largest nonprofit provider of child care and after-school programs; and

WHEREAS, The YMCA serves people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities, creating spaces where all people are welcomed, treated with respect and provided with opportunities to connect with their neighbors; and

WHEREAS, YMCAs nationwide are working to build stronger, more connected communities through intentional experiences that help people achieve their goals, foster connection and promote well-being to build lasting communal relationships; and

WHEREAS, In 2026, YMCAs nationwide will host special events that celebrate the moments, programs and people who have shaped their history: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we congratulate and express our appreciation to the YMCA for 175 years of service to the nation; and

*Be it further resolved:* That we recognize the YMCA's role in responding to community needs, connecting people, fostering support, building relationships and creating a sense of belonging; and

*Be it further resolved:* That we commend the hundreds of thousands of employees and volunteers who create connected communities and advance the YMCA's mission to build healthy spirits, minds and bodies for all; and

*Be it further resolved:* That we encourage continued support for the YMCA's efforts to address social isolation and loneliness by creating spaces that promote achievement, well-being and connection, which help people build lasting communal relationships; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate shall send two enrolled copies of this resolution to Senator Hill.

Senate Resolution No. 1730 was sponsored by Senator Scott Hill.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

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*President of the Senate.*

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*Secretary of the Senate.*