

SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

S.R. No. 79

(SENATE AUTHORS: CWODZINSKI)

DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
04/22/2026		Introduction Referred to Rules and Administration

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A Senate resolution

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celebrating the 175th anniversary of the Young Men's Christian Association.

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WHEREAS, the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) has been a part of Minnesota

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communities for more than 170 years, with the first YMCA opening in St. Paul in 1856. Today,

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the Upper Midwest Alliance has 17 Associations in Minnesota with charters in Albert Lea,

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Alexandria, Red Wing, St. Cloud, Worthington, Winona, Mankato, Austin, Marshall, Northfield,

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Fergus Falls, Duluth, Itasca County, Kandiyohi County, YMCA of the North, and Camp Olson

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YMCA, serving the entire state through the work of more than 7,700 employees and nearly 12,000

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volunteers; and

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WHEREAS, the YMCA is a trusted community partner that strengthens youth, families,

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and communities through youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility programs;

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WHEREAS, the YMCA has played a significant role in American life, including: providing

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safe housing during the Industrial Revolution; pioneering the first night school and English as a

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second language classes; inventing the game of basketball; delivering the first group swim lessons;

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leading humanitarian efforts during wartime, including the work of YMCA leader John R. Mott,

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who later received the Nobel Peace Prize for his service and leadership; establishing Youth and

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Government in 1936, a civic engagement program that continues to this day and serves more than

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2,000 young people; serving as the birthplace of Father's Day, first celebrated in 1910; becoming

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the nation's leading nonprofit provider of child care and after-school programs beginning in 1970;

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and serving as a leading provider of emergency child care for frontline workers and a significant

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provider of food assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

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WHEREAS, nationally, the YMCA remains one of the largest and most impactful charitable

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nonprofits in the country, with 2,600 YMCA Associations serving more than 10,000 communities,

employing more than 300,000 staff and hundreds of thousands of volunteers, and providing programs that engage more than 17 million people annually, including millions of children and youth; and

WHEREAS, in Minnesota, YMCAs continue to provide essential programs that strengthen families and support health and well-being by creating connected communities and supporting long-term health outcomes, including: swim lessons and youth water safety; camping and youth development programs; meal programs; lifestyle health programs; and fitness and wellbeing programs, including services for older adults, where the YMCA is the nation's largest provider of fitness programs for seniors; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the State of Minnesota that it celebrates the 175th anniversary of the YMCA and its enduring contributions to communities across Minnesota and the nation; recognizes the incredible and ongoing work of the YMCA in Minnesota in strengthening youth, families, and communities through its programs and services; honors the YMCA for its unwavering commitment to strengthening families and fostering health, well-being, and opportunity for all Minnesotans; and encourages all citizens of the State of Minnesota to join in this celebration and to acknowledge the positive impact of the YMCA in their communities.

Tom Bottern
Secretary of the Senate

Erin P. Murphy
Chair, Senate Committee on
Rules and Administration

Steve A. Cwodzinski
State Senator, District 49