

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO.

Introduced by

Representative Bosch

1 A concurrent resolution to recognize and congratulate the Young Men's Christian Association on
2 its 175th anniversary.

3 **WHEREAS**, the Young Men's Christian Association, known as the YMCA and the Y, marks
4 its 175th anniversary in the United States; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the Young Men's Christian Association was founded in the United States by
6 Thomas Valentine Sullivan in 1851, inspired by the Young Men's Christian Association in
7 England, to put Christian principles into practice by building healthy spirits, minds, and bodies
8 for all; and

9 **WHEREAS**, as a charitable nonprofit, the Young Men's Christian Association has
10 continually adapted to meet evolving needs of communities, strengthened society by bringing
11 people together, fostered relationships, and created a sense of belonging; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the legacy of the Young Men's Christian Association includes providing safe
13 housing during the industrial revolution; pioneering the first night school and English as a
14 second language class; inventing basketball; leading humanitarian efforts during wartime,
15 including the work of John Raleigh Mott who received the 1946 Nobel Peace Prize; establishing
16 the youth and government program in 1936 as a premier civic engagement initiative that
17 continues today; becoming the United States' leading nonprofit provider of child care and
18 afterschool programs; and providing food and emergency child care to front-line workers during
19 the SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) pandemic; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the Young Men's Christian Association serves in every state and territory
21 across the United States, reaching more than 10,000 communities, and is supported by over
22 300,000 staff members and 350,000 volunteers who deliver essential programs to more than
23 17,000,000 individuals annually, including nearly 11,000,000 adults and 6,500,000 children and
24 youth; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the Young Men's Christian Association first opened in this state in 1886 in
2 Grand Forks; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the Alliance of North Dakota YMCAs maintains charters in Bismarck, Fargo,
4 Grand Forks, and Minot, and serves nearly the entire state through the efforts of more than
5 2,200 staff members and nearly 1,800 volunteers, delivering programs and services that
6 strengthen youth, adults, seniors, families, and communities; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the Young Men's Christian Association is a leader in providing programs for
8 swim lessons, camping, youth sports, meals, lifestyle, health and well-being, and fitness for
9 older adults; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the Young Men's Christian Association serves individuals of all ages,
11 backgrounds, and abilities in spaces where all feel welcome, are treated with respect, and find
12 opportunities to connect with their neighbors;

13 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF**
14 **NORTH DAKOTA, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:**

15 That the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly congratulates and expresses appreciation to the
16 Young Men's Christian Association for 175 years of service to the United States; and

17 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution
18 to each Young Men's Christian Association in this state.