



2026 South Dakota Legislature

House Concurrent Resolution 6012

Introduced by: **Representative Wittman**

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION recognizing the YMCA for 175 years of service to**
2 **youth, families, and communities in South Dakota and across the United**
3 **States.**

4 WHEREAS, the Young Men's Christian Association, now widely known as the YMCA, marks
5 its 175th anniversary in the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, the YMCA started in England and was brought to the United States in 1851, by
7 Thomas Valentine Sullivan, to put Christian principles into practice and to help people from
8 all walks of life build healthy spirits, minds, and bodies; and

9 WHEREAS, as a charitable non-profit, the YMCA has fostered relationships, created a sense
10 of belonging, and strengthened society by bringing people together through their continual
11 adaptation to the evolving needs of communities; and

12 WHEREAS, the legacy of the YMCA includes providing safe housing during the Gilded Age;
13 pioneering the first night school and English-as-a-second-language classes; inventing
14 basketball; leading humanitarian efforts during wartime, including the work of John R. Mott,
15 who received the 1946 Nobel Peace Prize; establishing the Youth & Government Program in
16 1936, as a premier civic engagement initiative that continues today; and becoming the United
17 States' leading non-profit provider of childcare and afterschool programs; and

18 WHEREAS, the YMCA has committed itself to advancing affordable, accessible programs
19 for all families by offering affordable childcare, youth development programs, and health
20 services to families of all backgrounds and income levels; and

21 WHEREAS, the YMCA serves in every state and territory across the United States, reaching
22 more than 10,000 communities, and is supported by over 300,000 staff members and

1 350,000 volunteers who deliver essential programs to more than 17 million individuals
2 annually, including nearly 11 million adults and 6.5 million youth; and

3 WHEREAS, the first YMCA in South Dakota opened in Dupree in 1879; and

4 WHEREAS, the Alliance of South Dakota YMCAs maintains charters in Sioux Falls, Dupree,
5 Rapid City, Aberdeen, Pierre, Custer, Box Elder, and Edgemont, and serves nearly the entire
6 state, including rural and tribal communities, through the efforts of 1,274 staff members and
7 over 1,000 volunteers, delivering programs and services that strengthen youth, adults,
8 seniors, families, and communities; and

9 WHEREAS, the YMCA provides licensed daycare for 2,331 children, out-of-school activities
10 for 32,752 children, and programs throughout the entire state for a total of 43,162 youth and
11 adults;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the One Hundred
13 First Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the
14 Legislature congratulates and expresses its appreciation to the YMCA for 175 years of service
15 to the United States, and recognizes the YMCA's contributions to the well-being and
16 development of South Dakota's communities.