

ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 496

Introduced by Hughes, 24.

WHEREAS, the first YMCA in Nebraska opened in Omaha during 1866 to serve young Christian men working on the transcontinental railroad; and

WHEREAS, fifteen years earlier, in 1851, the first YMCA in the United States was formed in Boston; and

WHEREAS, the YMCA has served communities across the country regardless of age, income, ability, or background for one hundred and seventy-five years; and

WHEREAS, thirteen chartered YMCAs with thirty-three locations serve Nebraska communities through the collective impact of more than four thousand eight hundred staff members and nearly twenty thousand volunteers providing essential programs and services; and

WHEREAS, the YMCA is the largest provider of childcare in the state and is a leader in providing swim lessons, camping, youth sports, meal programs, health and fitness classes, and well-being programs; and

WHEREAS, the YMCA creates spaces where all people feel welcome, are treated with respect, and find opportunities to connect with their neighbors; and

WHEREAS, YMCA branches across the nation are working to build stronger, more connected communities through intentional experiences that help people achieve their goals, foster connection, and promote well-being in order to build relationships and thrive; and

WHEREAS, in 2026, YMCAs nationwide will host special events that celebrate the people, the programs, and the collective impact that is the YMCA shared history; and

WHEREAS, the YMCA's role in responding to the needs of working families and communities by connecting people, building relationships, and instilling a

sense of belonging for one hundred and seventy-five years deserves recognition.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Legislature congratulates the YMCA for one hundred and seventy-five years of service to the nation and one hundred sixty years of service to Nebraska communities.

2. That the Legislature recognizes the staff and volunteers throughout Nebraska and the country who create connected communities and advance the YMCA's mission to build healthy spirits, minds, and bodies for all.