

A resolution

urging the United States Mission to the United Nations to create the position of youth delegate.

WHEREAS, the United States Mission to the United Nations (USUN) serves as the United States' delegation to the United Nations; and

WHEREAS, created in 1947 by an act of Congress to assist the President and the Department of State in conducting United States policy at the United Nations, the USUN is responsible for carrying out the nation's participation in the world body, and it has served a vital role as the Department of State's UN branch; and

WHEREAS, today, the USUN has approximately 150 people on staff who serve to represent the United States' political, economic and social, legal, military, public diplomacy, and management interests at the United Nations; and

WHEREAS, national youth delegates to the United Nations help to enhance awareness of the global situation of youth and to increase recognition of their rights and aspirations, while promoting national youth policies, programs, and coordinating mechanisms as integral parts of social and economic development, in cooperation with both governmental and nongovernmental organizations; and

WHEREAS, youth delegates also help to strengthen the participation of youth in decision-making processes at all levels in order to increase their contribution to national development and international cooperation; and

WHEREAS, member states of the United Nations have long recognized that the imagination, energy, and ideals of young people are vital for the continuing development of

the societies in which they live, and the inclusion of youth delegates leads to better policy and programmatic responses to the problems facing young people today; and

WHEREAS, the United States currently has no youth delegate to the United Nations; and

WHEREAS, while the costs of creating a youth delegate position from the United States would be minimal, the potential benefits are enormous: giving young people a role and a voice in seeking to address today's challenges would enable them to become key agents for development, social change, economic growth, and technological innovation; and

WHEREAS, by enabling more effective participation of young people, the nation can benefit from their energy, idealism, unique perspectives, innovation, and creativity; young people are the experts on the issues that affect them and are integral to achieving effective and enduring solutions; and

WHEREAS, when young people are empowered to participate more fully in society and decision-making processes, they become engaged as partners in shaping the world they will inherit and pass on to future generations; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a youth delegate position would be a tangible demonstration by the United States government of their commitment to young people, improving relations between the government and United States youth; in addition, it would promote youth representation and participation in an organization such as the United Nations General Assembly and inspire young people to take a greater interest in citizenship and become more involved in international issues; and

WHEREAS, a youth delegate position will provide an opportunity for the United States to comply with United Nations resolutions on youth representatives while maintaining autonomy over the process, and will allow the United States to legitimately represent the views of United States youth and promote their voices in global decision-making; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota that it urges the United States Mission to the United Nations to create the position of youth delegate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of State of the State of Minnesota is directed to prepare copies of this memorial and transmit them to the President of the United States, the President and the Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the congressional committees with jurisdiction over the USUN, and Minnesota's Senators and Representatives in Congress.