

Whereas, There has been a clear indication of a decline of physical strength and ability of young Americans since the early stages of the Korean War, highlighted by figures released showing that almost one out of every two young Americans was being rejected by the Selective Service as mentally, morally, or physically unfit; and

WHEREAS, A fifteen-year research project centering in the Posture Clinic of New York's Columbia-Presbyterian Hospital recently published results of physical fitness tests given to 4,264 children in this country and 2,870 children in Austria, Italy, and Switzerland, showing that despite our unparalleled standard of living, good food, etc., American youth lagged far behind Europeans in physical fitness. Six tests for muscular strength and flexibility were given with 57.9% of the American children failing one or more of these tests, while only 8.7% of the Europeans failed. In the five strength tests, 35.7% of the American children failed one or more of these tests, while 1.1% of the Europeans failed, and among the Austrian and Swiss youth, the rate of failure was as low as .5%; and

WHEREAS, As a result of the alarming findings of the Columbia-Presbyterian Hospital research project, President Eisenhower has created a Council on Youth Fitness at the Cabinet level and appointed a Citizens Advisory Committee on Fitness of American Youth composed of prominent citizens in fitness; and

WHEREAS, ~~President Elect~~ PRESIDENT John F. Kennedy has been sufficiently alarmed by the overall decline of the physical fitness of our young men and women that he has written an article in a major weekly magazine, entitled "The Soft American" pointing out the dangers of physical weakness; and

WHEREAS, It appears that in some political subdivisions in the State, the Boards of Education are not encouraging physical fitness or high school athletics in their particular areas, particularly, in one of the largest political subdivisions in the State; and

WHEREAS, This is just as much a State of Maryland problem as it is a national problem and it is time for the State of Maryland to move forward with a State program designed to improve the fitness, general posture, strength, and good health of all young men and women in Maryland; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That the Governor be requested to appoint a special Commission of not less than 7 nor more than 12 members, a majority of whom shall be graduates of educational institutions located within the State of Maryland, at least one member of which shall be a member of the faculty of an institution of higher learning in this State, and at least one member shall be a member of the faculty of high school in this State, and at least one member a representative of the Armed Services, to conduct a thorough analysis and study of the overall problem of physical fitness training of young men and women in the State of Maryland, to investigate and evaluate the policy of the State Board of Education and the policies of the various Boards of Education in the Counties with regard to physical fitness training in the public school system and the encouragement of high school athletics therein, to establish