

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 21

Reps. Hornberger and Witwer offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare January 31-February 6, 2021, as
2 Catholic Schools Week in the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, There are nearly 50,000 students attending 219
4 Catholic elementary and high schools throughout our great state;
5 and

6 Whereas, The Constitution of Michigan states that "Religion,
7 morality and knowledge being necessary to good government and the
8 happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall
9 forever be encouraged"; and

10 Whereas, Catholic school parents pay tuition in addition to
11 supporting their local public schools through their taxes; and

12 Whereas, Catholic schools comply with the same health, safety,
13 and general welfare regulations required of public schools; and

1 Whereas, Taking into account Michigan's minimum public school
2 foundation allowance of \$8,111 per pupil, Catholic schools save
3 taxpayers more than \$400 million in state spending annually; and

4 Whereas, Catholic schools instill a broad, values-based
5 education, emphasizing the lifelong development of moral,
6 intellectual, and social values in young people, making them
7 responsible citizens of our state and nation; and

8 Whereas, Catholic schools educate many students who are non-
9 Catholic, many students who are economically disadvantaged, and
10 that a good education remains the single best way out of poverty;
11 and

12 Whereas, With their traditionally high academic standards,
13 high graduation rates, and commitment to community service,
14 Catholic schools and their graduates make a positive contribution
15 to society; and

16 Whereas, January 31-February 6, 2021, has been designated as
17 Catholic Schools Week, with the theme "Catholic Schools: Faith.
18 Excellence. Service." as denoted by the National Catholic
19 Educational Association and the United States Conference of
20 Catholic Bishops; and

21 Whereas, The common good of the state of Michigan is
22 strengthened through the continued existence of Catholic schools;
23 and

24 Whereas, Catholic schools provided nearly uninterrupted
25 instruction to their students during state-mandated pandemic school
26 building closures; and

27 Whereas, Catholic schools create a supporting partnership with
28 each student's family, encouraging the involvement of parents in
29 the education of their children, so that Catholic schools form

1 productive lives which benefit future generations; now, therefore,
2 be it

3 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
4 this legislative body declare January 31-February 6, 2021, as
5 Catholic Schools Week in the state of Michigan. We support the
6 continued dedication of Catholic schools across Michigan toward
7 academic excellence and the key role Catholic schools play in
8 promoting and ensuring a brighter, stronger future for students;
9 and be it further

10 Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the
11 Michigan Catholic Conference with our highest esteem.