

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 6

Senators LaSata, Victory, Theis, Johnson, Nesbitt, Daley, Runestad, MacDonald, VanderWall and Horn offered the following resolution:

1           A resolution to recognize January 31-February 6, 2021, as  
2 Catholic Schools Week.

3           Whereas, There are 49,646 students attending 219 Catholic  
4 elementary and high schools throughout our great state; and  
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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

1 supporting their local public schools through their taxes; and

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

4       Whereas, Taking into account Michigan's minimum public school  
5 foundation allowance of \$8,111 per pupil, Catholic schools save  
6 taxpayers more than \$402 million in state spending annually; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

29       Whereas, Catholic schools create a supportive partnership with

1 each student's family, while also encouraging parental involvement  
2 in their children's education, so that Catholic students form  
3 productive lives that benefit future generations; now, therefore,  
4 be it

5       Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative  
6 body recognize January 31-February 6, 2021, as Catholic Schools  
7 Week; and be it further

8       Resolved, That we support the continued dedication of Catholic  
9 schools across Michigan toward academic excellence and the key role  
10 Catholic schools play in promoting and ensuring a brighter,  
11 stronger future for students; and be it further

12       Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the  
13 Michigan Catholic Conference with our highest esteem.