

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 6

Senators LaSata, Victory, Theis, Johnson, Nesbitt, Daley, Runestad, MacDonald and VanderWall 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
11 supporting their local public schools through their taxes; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 Whereas, Catholic schools create a supportive partnership with
29 each student's family, while also encouraging parental involvement

1 in their children's education, so that Catholic students form
2 productive lives that benefit future generations; now, therefore,
3 be it

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

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

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