

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 86

Senators Bellino, Lauwers, Daley, Albert, Nesbitt, Huizenga, Damoose, Webber, McDonald Rivet, Wojno and Hauck offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to recognize January 28-February 3, 2024, as
2 Catholic Schools Week.

3 Whereas, There are 49,858 students attending 210 Catholic
4 elementary and high schools throughout our great state; and

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

9 Whereas, Catholic school parents pay tuition in addition to
10 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 \$9,608 per pupil, Catholic schools will
5 save taxpayers more than \$479 million in state spending during the
6 current school year; 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, many students who are economically disadvantaged, and
13 exemplifies that a good education remains the single best way out
14 of poverty; and

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

19 Whereas, January 28-February 3, 2024, has been designated as
20 Catholic Schools Week, with the theme, "Catholic Schools: United in
21 Faith and Community" as denoted by the National Catholic
22 Educational Association and the United States Conference of
23 Catholic Bishops; and

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

27 Whereas, Catholic schools are committed to community service,
28 producing graduates who hold "helping others" among their core
29 values; and

1 Whereas, A supportive partnership is created within Catholic
2 schools for each student's family, while also encouraging parental
3 involvement in the education of their children, so that Catholic
4 students form productive lives which benefit future generations;
5 now, therefore, be it

6 Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative
7 body recognize January 28-February 3, 2024, as Catholic Schools
8 Week. We support the continued dedication of Catholic schools
9 across Michigan toward academic excellence and the key role that
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.