

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 4

Senators Bellino, Lindsey, Santana, Huizenga, Theis, Webber, Lauwers, Nesbitt, Outman, Wojno, McMorrow and Albert offered the following resolution:

1       A resolution to recognize January 26-February 1, 2025, as  
2 Catholic Schools Week.

3       Whereas, There are 51,497 students attending 214 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

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

1       Whereas, Taking into account Michigan's minimum public school  
2 foundation allowance of \$9,608 per pupil, Catholic schools will  
3 save taxpayers more than \$494 million in state spending during the  
4 current school year; and

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

9       Whereas, Catholic schools educate many students who are non-  
10 Catholic, many students who are economically disadvantaged, and  
11 exemplifies that a good education remains the single best way out  
12 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 26-February 1, 2025, has been designated as  
18 Catholic Schools Week, with the theme "Catholic Schools: United in  
19 Faith and Community" 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 are committed to community service,  
26 producing graduates who hold "helping others" among their core  
27 values; and

28       Whereas, A supportive partnership is created with each  
29 student's family, encouraging the involvement of parents in the

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

4       Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative  
5 body recognize January 26-February 1, 2025, as Catholic Schools  
6 Week. We support the continued dedication of Catholic schools  
7 across Michigan toward academic excellence and the key role  
8 Catholic schools play in promoting and ensuring a brighter,  
9 stronger future for students; and be it further

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