

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.