

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 21

Reps. Schmaltz, BeGole, Beson, Bezotte, Bollin, Breen, Tyrone Carter, Hood, Liberati and Schuette offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare January 29-February 4, 2023, as
2 Catholic Schools Week in the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, There are nearly 50,000 students attending more than
4 200 Catholic elementary and high schools throughout our great
5 state; and

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

12 Whereas, Catholic schools comply with the same health, safety,

1 and general welfare regulations required of public schools; and

2 Whereas, Taking into account Michigan's minimum public school
3 foundation allowance of \$9,150 per pupil, Catholic schools save
4 taxpayers more than \$450 million in state spending annually; 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 that a good education remains the single best way out of poverty;
12 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 29-February 4, 2023, 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 supporting partnership with
29 each student's family, encouraging the involvement of parents in

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

4 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
5 this legislative body declare January 29-February 4, 2023, as
6 Catholic Schools Week in the state of Michigan. We support the
7 continued dedication of Catholic schools across Michigan toward
8 academic excellence and the key role Catholic schools play in
9 promoting and ensuring a brighter, stronger future for students;
10 and be it further

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