

## 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.