

# HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 21

Rep. Schmaltz 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,  
13 and general welfare regulations required of public schools; and

1           Whereas, Taking into account Michigan's minimum public school  
2 foundation allowance of \$9,150 per pupil, Catholic schools save  
3 taxpayers more than \$450 million in state spending annually; and

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

8           Whereas, Catholic schools educate many students who are non-  
9 Catholic, many students who are economically disadvantaged, and  
10 that a good education remains the single best way out of poverty;  
11 and

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

16           Whereas, January 29-February 4, 2023, has been designated as  
17 Catholic Schools Week, with the theme "Catholic Schools: Faith.  
18 Excellence. Service." as denoted by the National Catholic  
19 Educational Association and the United States Conference of  
20 Catholic Bishops; and

21           Whereas, The common good of the state of Michigan is  
22 strengthened through the continued existence of Catholic schools;  
23 and

24           Whereas, Catholic schools provided nearly uninterrupted  
25 instruction to their students during state-mandated pandemic school  
26 building closures; and

27           Whereas, Catholic schools create a supporting partnership with  
28 each student's family, encouraging the involvement of parents in  
29 the education of their children, so that Catholic schools form

1 productive lives which benefit future generations; now, therefore,  
2 be it

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

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