

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 179

Rep. Schmaltz offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare January 28-February 3, 2024, as
2 Catholic Schools Week in the state of Michigan.

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

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 \$479 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 and many students who are economically disadvantaged, as
11 a good education remains the single best way out of poverty; 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 28-February 3, 2024, has been designated as
17 Catholic Schools Week, with the theme "Catholic Schools: United in
18 Faith and Community" 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 are committed to community service,
25 producing graduates who hold "helping others" among their core
26 values; 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 recognize January 28-February 3, 2024, 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 and 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.