

Senators Proos, Green, Booher, Walker, Brandenburg, Hildenbrand, Moolenaar, Kowall, Jansen, Bieda, Colbeck, Hansen, Nofs and Pappageorge offered the following resolution:

**Senate Resolution No. 111.**

A resolution to declare January 26 - February 1, 2014, as Catholic Schools Week in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, There are 54,832 students attending 234 Catholic elementary and high schools throughout our great state; and

Whereas, The Constitution of Michigan states: "Religion, morality and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged"; and

Whereas, Catholic schools provide young people with a strong foundation of values and academic skills needed to become responsible citizens of our state and nation; and

Whereas, Catholic school parents pay tuition in addition to supporting public schools through their taxes; and

Whereas, Catholic schools comply with the same health, safety, and general welfare regulations required of public schools, but without compensation from the state government; and

Whereas, The viability of Catholic schools should be encouraged so that declines in Catholic school enrollment, which necessitate increases in public expenditures in the School Aid Fund, can be avoided; and

Whereas, Catholic schools educate many students who are non-Catholic and many students who are economically disadvantaged; and

Whereas, With their traditionally high academic standards and high graduation rates, all supported by strong moral values, Catholic schools and their graduates make a positive contribution to American society; and

Whereas, January 26 - February 1, 2014, has been designated as Catholic Schools Week, with the theme "Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge, and Service," as denoted by the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops; and

Whereas, The common good of the state of Michigan is strengthened through the continued existence of Catholic schools; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative body declare January 26 - February 1, 2014, as Catholic Schools Week in the state of Michigan. We recognize the great accomplishments and contributions of Catholic schools in and to our state; and be it further

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