**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE THE GOALS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK AND TO HONOR THE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, Catholic schools in South Carolina are acclaimed for their academic excellence; and

Whereas, Catholic schools in the State also provide much more than an exceptional scholastic education, emphasizing a broad, values‑based education that furthers the lifelong development of moral, intellectual, physical, and social values; and

Whereas, by providing a strong academic and moral foundation to a diverse student population from all socioeconomic backgrounds, Catholic schools provide a significant service to the State of South Carolina; and

Whereas, Catholic schools provide an affordable option for parents, particularly in underserved areas; and

Whereas, Catholic schools remain committed to community service, producing graduates who hold “helping others” as a core value; and

Whereas, for the 2018‑2019 academic year, the total student enrollment in Catholic schools in the State of South Carolina is almost 7,100, and the student‑to‑teacher ratio is eight to one; and

Whereas, Catholic schools in South Carolina educate a diverse population of students, of which seventeen percent belong to racial minorities, fifteen percent are exceptional needs learners, and twenty-two percent are non‑Catholics; and

Whereas, the Catholic high school graduation rate in the State of South Carolina is 99.5 percent, with 92.4 percent of graduates going on to attend a four‑year college; and

Whereas, the week of January 26, 2020 to February 1, 2020 has been designated as “National Catholic Schools Week” by the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate support the goals of National Catholic Schools Week, an event that was established to recognize the vital contributions of the thousands of Catholic elementary and secondary schools; and

Whereas, the Senate further commends Catholic schools, students, parents, and teachers across the State for their ongoing contributions to education and for playing a vital role in promoting and ensuring a brighter, stronger future for our state and nation. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize the goals of Catholic Schools Week and honor the valuable contributions of Catholic schools in South Carolina.

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