**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE THE GOALS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK AND COMMEND CATHOLIC SCHOOLS, STUDENTS, PARENTS, AND TEACHERS ACROSS SOUTH CAROLINA FOR THEIR ONGOING CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION, AS WELL AS FOR THE VITAL ROLE THEY PLAY IN PROMOTING AND ENSURING A BRIGHTER, STRONGER FUTURE FOR THIS GREAT STATE AND OUR ENTIRE NATION.

Whereas, Catholic schools in South Carolina are acclaimed for their academic excellence and provide students with more than an exceptional scholastic education; and

Whereas, Catholic schools instill a broad, values‑based education, emphasizing the lifelong development of moral, intellectual, physical, and social values in young people in South Carolina; and

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

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

Whereas, Catholic schools are committed to community service, producing graduates who affirm helping others as a core value; and

Whereas, the total student enrollment in Catholic schools in the State of South Carolina for the 2018‑2019 academic year was almost 7,100, and the student‑to‑teacher ratio was 8 to 1; and

Whereas, Catholic schools in South Carolina educate a diverse population of students, of which 17 percent belong to racial minorities, 15 percent are exceptional needs learners, and 22 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 attending a four‑year college; and

Whereas, the week of Sunday, January 26, 2020, to Saturday, 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 House supports the goals of National Catholic Schools Week, an event co‑sponsored by the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and established to recognize the vital contributions of the thousands of Catholic elementary and secondary schools in the State of South Carolina. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize the goals of Catholic Schools Week and commend Catholic schools, students, parents, and teachers across South Carolina for their ongoing contributions to education, as well as for the vital role they play in promoting and ensuring a brighter, stronger future for this great State and our entire nation.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Most Reverend Robert E. Guglielmone, Bishop of the Diocese of Charleston.

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