

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 692

Supporting the contributions of Catholic schools.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 12, 2018

Mr. LIPINSKI (for himself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. BORDALLO, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. JONES, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LATTA, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. SERRANO, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. YARMUTH, and Mr. LAHOOD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

RESOLUTION

Supporting the contributions of Catholic schools.

Whereas Catholic schools in the United States are internationally acclaimed for their academic excellence and provide students with more than an exceptional scholastic education;

Whereas Catholic schools instill a broad, values-added education emphasizing the lifelong development of moral, intellectual, physical, and social values in young people in the United States;

Whereas Catholic schools serve the Nation by providing a diverse student population from all regions of the country

and all socioeconomic backgrounds a strong academic and moral foundation, including 41.4 percent of students from racial and ethnic minority backgrounds and 19 percent from non-Catholic families;

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

Whereas Catholic schools produce students strongly dedicated to their faith, values, families, and communities by providing an intellectually stimulating environment rich in spiritual, character, and moral development;

Whereas Catholic schools are committed to community service, producing graduates who hold “helping others” among their core values;

Whereas the total Catholic school student enrollment for the 2017–2018 academic year is almost 1,900,000 and the student-teacher ratio is 12 to 1;

Whereas the Catholic high school graduation rate is 99 percent, with 86 percent of graduates attending 4-year colleges;

Whereas in the 1972 pastoral message concerning Catholic education, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops stated, “Education is one of the most important ways by which the Church fulfills its commitment to the dignity of the person and building of community. Community is central to education ministry, both as a necessary condition and an ardently desired goal. The educational efforts of the Church, therefore, must be directed to forming persons-in-community; for the education of the individual Christian is important not only to his solitary destiny, but also the destinies of the many communities in which he lives.”;

Whereas the week of January 28, 2018, to February 3, 2018, has been designated as National Catholic Schools Week by the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and January 31, 2018, has been designated National Appreciation Day for Catholic Schools;

Whereas the National Catholic Schools Week was first established in 1974 and has been celebrated annually for the past 44 years;

Whereas while some Catholic schools are challenged by declining enrollments and school closures, the good news is that there is a strong demand and enthusiasm for Catholic schools;

Whereas 30 percent of Catholic schools have waiting lists for admission and new schools are opening across the country; and

Whereas the theme for National Catholic Schools Week 2018 is Catholic Schools: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) supports the goals of National Catholic
3 Schools Week, an event cosponsored by the National
4 Catholic Educational Association and the United
5 States Conference of Catholic Bishops and estab-
6 lished to recognize the vital contributions of the
7 thousands of Catholic elementary and secondary
8 schools in the United States;

9 (2) applauds the National Catholic Educational
10 Association and the United States Conference of

1 Catholic Bishops on their selection of a theme that
2 all can celebrate; and

3 (3) supports the continued dedication of Catho-
4 lic schools, students, parents, and teachers across
5 the United States toward academic excellence, and
6 supports the key role they play in promoting and en-
7 suring a brighter, stronger future for the Nation.

