

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1706

A RESOLUTION recognizing National Catholic Schools Week.

WHEREAS, The week of January 27, 2013, to February 2, 2013, 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 theme for the National Catholic Schools Week 2013 is "Catholic Schools Raise the Standards." The 2013 theme supports the recent launch of the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools, that ensures the effective operation and responsible governance of Catholic schools across the country, thus promoting high academic standards and Catholic identity; and

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

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

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; and

WHEREAS, Catholic schools are committed to community service, producing graduates who hold "helping others" as one of their core values; and

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."; and

WHEREAS, There are 45 Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas, with a total enrollment of 15,234 students and 7 Catholic schools of the Diocese of Dodge City, Kansas, with a total enrollment of 989 students. There are 16 Catholic schools of the Diocese of Salina, Kansas, with a total enrollment of 2,798 students and 38 Catholic schools of the Diocese of Wichita, Kansas, with a total enrollment of 10,671 students; and

WHEREAS, There are a total of 90 elementary schools and 16 high schools within the Kansas Catholic schools system, totaling 29,692 enrolled students; and

WHEREAS, Almost every Catholic school in Kansas celebrates National Catholic Schools Week with a special All School Mass. In addition, Kansas Catholic schools often host a teacher appreciation day, special service day, special prayer day, student appreciation day and a family appreciation day; and

WHEREAS, Examples of activities undertaken by Kansas Catholic schools during National Catholic Schools Week include writing letters to nursing homes or homeless ministries, praying each class hour and baking cookies for parents who drop off their children at school each morning; and

WHEREAS, Eight Catholic elementary schools and one Catholic high school in Kansas received the 2012 Kansas Governor's Achievement Award. To receive such a prestigious award, a school must have achieved the Standard of Excellence in both reading and mathematics and been among the top 5% of schools in both reading and mathematics in 2012: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas: That we support the continued dedication of Catholic schools across Kansas toward academic excellence and the key role Catholic schools play in promoting and ensuring a brighter, stronger future for students; and

Be it further resolved: That we support the goals of National Catholic Schools Week and recognize the vital contributions of Kansas Catholic schools; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of the Senate shall send five enrolled copies of this resolution to Senator Bowers.

Senate Resolution No. 1706 was sponsored by Senator Elaine Bowers.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

President of the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate.