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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

SENATE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING JANUARY 29 THROUGH FEBRUARY 4, 2012, AS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
WEEK IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators DiPalma, Ruggiero, Tassoni, Paiva Weed, and Goodwin

Date Introduced: February 02, 2012

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, Catholic Schools are centers of education where students witness, share, and
2 grow in the Catholic faith community; and

3 WHEREAS, Within a framework of Catholic Christian values, Catholic Schools strive to
4 provide academic excellence, to nurture spiritual, physical, and emotional growth, and to assist
5 students to become lifelong promoters of the Gospel message; and

6 WHEREAS, Catholic schools enjoy a level of involvement, commitment, and
7 expectations on the part of Catholic school parents and teachers that is very high; and

8 WHEREAS, Catholic schools offer a higher level of discipline and order; and

9 WHEREAS, Catholic school policies regarding course work, homework, and ability level
10 grouping are extremely effective; and

11 WHEREAS, Rhode Island's Catholic Schools are acclaimed for their academic
12 excellence. Their elementary school students consistently score above average in national
13 standardized tests in all subject areas, and their high school graduation rate is nearly 100 percent;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Nearly 98 percent of those graduates pursue higher education; and

16 WHEREAS, There are currently 44 Catholic elementary schools with an enrollment of an
17 estimated 14,000 students in the Diocese of Providence; and

18 WHEREAS, Rhode Island Catholic Schools provide parents with a choice in their child's
19 educational journey; and

1 WHEREAS, Rhode Island Catholic Schools have provided more than \$1.4 million in
2 tuition assistance to 1,800 low-income students this academic year; and

3 WHEREAS, For every child that attends a Catholic School, more financial resources are
4 made available for public school teachers and students; and

5 WHEREAS, Catholic Schools Week, observed January 29 to February 4 nationwide,
6 provides a special opportunity to celebrate the achievements of Rhode Island's Catholic Schools,
7 to thank those who are involved in this ministry, and to affirm a commitment to education; and

8 WHEREAS, The theme for this year's Catholic Schools Week is "Catholic Schools:
9 Faith, Academics, Service," words that define the very purpose of such schools; and

10 WHEREAS, As Bishop Tobin recently stated, Catholic schools are also well known for
11 their academic achievements, offering a comprehensive and demanding program of classroom
12 learning and extracurricular activities, and also motivate students to generosity and service,
13 helping others in the name of Christ and sharing the gifts and blessings they themselves have
14 received; now, therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
16 hereby proclaims January 29 through February 4, 2012, to be Catholic Schools Week in the State
17 of Rhode Island; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That we applaud the efforts and support the goals of Rhode Island Catholic
19 Schools Week, an annual celebration sponsored by the Rhode Island Catholic Schools Parent
20 Federation. We furthermore congratulate the students, parents, teachers, and administrators for
21 their dedicated commitment to the education of Rhode Island's youth, and for the key role they
22 play in promoting and ensuring a brighter, stronger future for the State of Rhode Island; and be it
23 further

24 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
25 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Most Reverend Thomas J. Tobin, Bishop of
26 Providence, and the Chair of the Board of Directors for the Rhode Island Catholic Schools
27 Parents Federation.

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