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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

SENATE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING JANUARY 31, 2013, AS "RHODE ISLAND CATHOLIC SCHOOLS DAY"  
IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

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

Date Introduced: January 31, 2013

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, Catholic Schools offer a complete academic and values-based education  
2 emphasizing the moral, intellectual, physical, and social development of young people throughout  
3 Rhode Island; and

4 WHEREAS, Catholic Schools produce students who are strong and dedicated to their  
5 faith, values, families, and communities, by providing a safe, disciplined, and intellectually  
6 stimulating environment rich in spiritual character and moral development; and

7 WHEREAS, Rhode Island's Catholic Schools are acclaimed for their academic  
8 excellence. Their elementary school students consistently score above average in national  
9 standardized tests in all subject areas, and their high school graduation rate is nearly 100 percent,  
10 with almost 95 percent of those graduates going on to college; and

11 WHEREAS, There are currently 43 Catholic secondary and elementary schools in Rhode  
12 Island, with an enrollment of an estimated 13,000 students; and

13 WHEREAS, Rhode Island Catholic Schools teach students of culturally and socio-  
14 economically diverse backgrounds and provide more than \$1.7 million dollars in tuition  
15 assistance annually to low-income families; and

16 WHEREAS, Research demonstrates that Catholic Schools, better than any other type of  
17 school, successfully close the learning achievement gap between children from higher and lower  
18 socio-economic groups; and

19 WHEREAS, Rhode Island Catholic School parents provide over \$184 million in

1 education and construction savings to the state and local communities in Rhode Island every year;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Catholic Schools parents, students, and alumni contribute to, are involved  
4 in, and are dedicated to the life of their parishes and communities well beyond their numbers;  
5 now, therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
7 hereby proclaims January 31, 2013, to be "Rhode Island Catholic Schools Day" in the State of  
8 Rhode Island; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That we applaud the efforts and support and the many contributions of  
10 Catholic Schools in the State of Rhode Island. We furthermore congratulate the students, parents,  
11 teachers, and administrators for their dedicated commitment to the education of Rhode Island's  
12 youth, and for the key role they play in promoting and ensuring a brighter, stronger future for the  
13 State of Rhode Island; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to  
15 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Most Reverend Thomas J. Tobin, Bishop of  
16 Providence, Daniel J. Ferris, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, and James Sheil, the President  
17 and Chair of the Board of Directors for the Rhode Island Catholic Schools Parents Federation.

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