

H. Res. 409

In the House of Representatives, U.S.,

February 1, 2000.

Whereas America's Catholic schools are internationally acclaimed for their academic excellence, but provide students more than a superior scholastic education;

Whereas Catholic schools ensure a broad, values-added education emphasizing the lifelong development of moral, intellectual, physical, and social values in America's young people;

Whereas the total Catholic school student enrollment for the 1998–1999 academic year was 2,646,844, the total number of Catholic schools is 8,217, and the student-teacher ratio is less than 17 to 1;

Whereas Catholic schools provide more than \$17,200,000,000 a year in savings to the Nation based on the average public school per pupil cost;

Whereas Catholic schools teach a diverse group of students and over 25 percent of school children enrolled in Catholic schools are minorities;

Whereas the graduation rate of Catholic school students is 95 percent, only 3 percent of Catholic high school students drop out of school, and 83 percent of Catholic high school graduates go on to college;

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 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”: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) supports the goals of Catholic Schools
3 Week, an event sponsored by the National Catholic
4 Educational Association and the United States
5 Catholic Conference and established to recognize the
6 vital contributions of America’s thousands of Catho-
7 lic elementary and secondary schools; and

8 (2) congratulates Catholic schools, students,
9 parents, and teachers across the Nation for their on-
10 going contributions to education, and for the key

- 1 role they play in promoting and ensuring a brighter,
- 2 stronger future for this Nation.

Attest:

Clerk.