

SENATE RESOLUTION
8706

By Senators McAuliffe, Zarelli, Franklin, Delvin, Jacobsen, Hatfield, Rasmussen, Murray, Brown, Kohl-Welles, Pflug, McCaslin, Parlette, Swecker, Tom, King, Berkey, Prentice, Fairley, Hewitt, and Spanel

WHEREAS, Catholic schools will be celebrating "Catholic Schools Week 2008" by recognizing that "Catholic Schools Light the Way"; and

WHEREAS, Across the United States, close to half of students enrolled in private schools attend Catholic schools; and

WHEREAS, With their emphasis on academic excellence and moral values, Catholic schools enjoy high satisfaction rates among students and parents and high achievement rates, including high school graduation rates of more than 99 percent; and

WHEREAS, Catholic schools encourage parent and community involvement in schools via a school board, commission, council, or parent organization; and

WHEREAS, Close to 200,000 teachers and staff have answered the call to service in Catholic schools; and

WHEREAS, The 7,800 Catholic schools in the United States, both elementary and secondary, save the government and taxpayers up to twenty billion dollars a year in public school expenses; and

WHEREAS, Catholic education is an integral part of the mission of the Catholic Church, and its strong commitment to students and educational excellence is of great value to the State of Washington; and

WHEREAS, Catholic schools have been enriching students' lives in Washington State for more than one hundred fifty years; and

WHEREAS, Catholic schools encourage and prepare students to obtain high levels of achievement through religious, academic, and cocurricular programs, and the schools are committed to serving students of diverse backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, With a commitment to service, Catholic schools have produced many of our finest leaders throughout this state and nation, Catholic Schools Week provides an opportunity to celebrate the contributions of the schools to our State;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the Catholic schools of Washington State and honor their academic excellence and faith-based instruction during this celebration of Catholic Schools Week, January 27 through February 2, 2008; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the school departments at the Archdiocese of Seattle, the Diocese of Spokane, the Diocese of Yakima, and the Washington State Catholic Conference.

I, Thomas Hoemann, Secretary of the Senate,
do hereby certify that this is a true and
correct copy of Senate Resolution 8706,
adopted by the Senate
January 31, 2008

THOMAS HOEMANN
Secretary of the Senate