

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating Catholic Schools Week 2012

WHEREAS, For over 200 years, the Catholic school communities of New York State have provided quality religious and academic education; and

WHEREAS, Catholic Schools Week is an annual national celebration of the important role that Catholic elementary and secondary schools across the country play in providing a values-added education for America's young people; Catholic schools are proud of their educational network that emphasizes the intellectual, spiritual, moral, physical and social values in their students; and

WHEREAS, Catholic Schools Week is a key part of the yearlong National Marketing Campaign for Catholic Schools; the goal of Catholic Schools Week is to build community awareness of, and involvement in, Catholic schools throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, The Catholic school communities of New York State are dedicated to teaching with spiritual, academic, and social excellence so that all students may become empowered to make a difference in their communities and the world; and

WHEREAS, This year, the Catholic school communities of New York State will celebrate their long tradition of academic excellence during Catholic Schools Week, which begins the last Sunday in January and runs all week, which in 2012 is January 29 to February 5; the theme for 2012 is "Catholic Schools: Faith. Academics. Service."; and

WHEREAS, Catholic schools have been an integral part of our Nation since its earliest days; in 1606, Franciscan missionaries opened the first Catholic school in the New World at St. Augustine, Florida; and

WHEREAS, In 1640, a Catholic school opened in Maryland, and in 1727, the Ursuline order opened a school in New Orleans; Georgetown University, the Nation's oldest Catholic institution of higher learning, was founded in 1789; schools opened in Philadelphia in 1782, and in New York in 1785; and

WHEREAS, In 1808, Elizabeth Seton opened a school in Baltimore and later in Emmitsburg, Maryland; her schools are considered the forerunners of today's Catholic schools; and

WHEREAS, For many immigrant populations, Catholic schools provided a way to preserve their ethnic culture and values because students were taught in the language of their former lands; and

WHEREAS, In other parts of the country, Catholic schools looked to the needs of orphans, American Indian children, and minority children; they were places to revere religion while also teaching patriotic values; and

WHEREAS, The Catholic schools of New York State and the Nation have made an enduring impact on the fabric of American life, by teaching the values of concern for others, compassion, safety, and a love of learning; and

WHEREAS, The Catholic school communities of New York State will continue to play a crucial role in the local, State, and national communities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate Catholic Schools Week 2012; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Catholic school communities of New York State.