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RESOLUTION COSPONSOR MEMO #16

OCT 18 2011

TO: All Senators
FROM: Senator Jane C. Orie
DATE: October 17, 2011
SUBJECT: Catholic Schools Week (January 29-February 5, 2012)

I will soon be introducing a resolution declaring the week of January 29th to February 5th, 2012, as "Catholic Schools Week" in Pennsylvania.

Nationally, more than 2 million students are enrolled in Catholic schools at the elementary and secondary levels. Parents who choose this option repeatedly cite high academic standards, a safe school environment, and values-added education, as the reasons for their choice. Ninety-seven percent of Catholic school students graduate and Ninety percent go onto college. Catholic schools instill in our cherished children a strong foundation of values, self-esteem, self-confidence and leadership skills, and are an important part of many Pennsylvania communities. Overall, Catholic schools save our state and local taxpayers more than \$2 billion each year.

This resolution is similar to *SR 20* of 2011, which was sponsored by Senators Dinniman, Alloway, Baker, Boscola, Browne, Brubaker, Costa, Earll, Erickson, Folmer, Fontana, Gordner, Greenleaf, Kasunic, Kitchen, McIlhinney, Mensch, Orie, Picola, Pileggi, Pippy, Rafferty, Robbins, Scarnati, Solobay, Stack, Tartaglione, Tomlinson, Vogel, Ward, Washington, Waugh, D. White, and Yaw.

Please join me in cosponsoring this resolution by contacting Monica Armstrong at 787-6538 or by email at marmstrong@pasen.gov

JCO/ns