

## 2009 SESSION

ENROLLED

### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 829

*Commending Virginia Catholic Schools.*

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 6, 2009  
Agreed to by the Senate, February 12, 2009

WHEREAS, Virginia Catholic Schools are commended for educational excellence as evidenced by 19 Virginia Catholic schools having received the No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School designation by the United States Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, the No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private K-12 schools that are either academically superior in their states or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement; and

WHEREAS, January 25, 2009, to January 31, 2009, has been designated as Catholic Schools Week by the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops; and

WHEREAS, since 1872, Catholic schools in Virginia have provided a high quality, Christ-centered learning environment that focuses on cultivating the potential of all students; and

WHEREAS, one of the fastest-growing dioceses in the nation, the Catholic Diocese of Arlington has almost 18,000 students; in the past decade, student enrollment has increased 25 percent and seven elementary schools have been opened; and

WHEREAS, committed to academic excellence, the Catholic Diocese of Richmond has over 9,000 students with a 100 percent graduation rate and 99 percent of students attending postsecondary schools; and

WHEREAS, Virginia has 27,681 Catholic school students, which results in \$246,776,115 in savings a year to Virginia taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the outstanding performance of Virginia Catholic Schools is a tribute to the talent and dedication of the staff and administration and the steadfast support of parents and community members; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly commend Virginia Catholic Schools for their significant cost savings annually to Virginia taxpayers and their ongoing commitment to education and academic excellence for Virginia students; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Virginia Catholic Schools as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for superior academic achievement.

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