

(January 23, 2008) House Passes Lipinski Resolution Honoring Catholic Schools

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Legislation Recognizes the Contributions of Catholic Schools Prior to Catholic Schools Week

[Washington, D.C.] Today, the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously approved H.Res. 916, a resolution introduced by Representative Dan Lipinski to honor Catholic Schools. Rep. Lipinski introduced this resolution to celebrate Catholic Schools Week - Jan. 27 through Feb. 2 - which celebrates Catholic schools and their contributions to their communities and the nation.

"Catholic schools continue to play an essential role in educating America's young people," said Lipinski. "I am the product of a Catholic education in the Chicago Archdiocese and my wife received a Catholic education in the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese, so I understand how important Catholic schools are in providing a spiritual, moral, and intellectual foundation for students all across the country."

Started in 1974, Catholic Schools Week has celebrated the important role Catholic schools play in American education and their continued reputation for excellence in providing today's young people with a strong academic and moral education, as well as teaching community responsibility and outreach. During this week, dioceses and schools work to build community awareness and encourage parents to take full advantage of the benefits of Catholic education.

"As we recognize Catholic Schools Week this year, we must pay special tribute to the thousands of dedicated teachers, parents, students, and countless others that continue to support and promote strong Catholic values and educational excellence," said Lipinski.

More than 106,000 young people in the Chicago area attend 276 Catholic elementary and high schools. The 3rd District of Illinois is a significant contributor, preparing students for the future at 34 grammar schools and 5 high schools. In addition, the nationwide Catholic high school graduation rate stands at 99%, with 97% of graduates going on to college or technical schools in order to further their education.

"Catholic schools have made a big difference in my life and in the lives of countless others," stated Lipinski. "As an important complement to public schools and other private institutions, Catholic schools contribute a great deal to America. And let us not forget, that every student who is taught in a Catholic school saves taxpayers money because they are not a part of the local public school system. America's Catholic schools deserve our praise and our support."