

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SCHOOL CHOICE AND SENATE BILL 1
BY THE _____ IN THE _____ DIOCESE**

WHEREAS, providing a quality education for our children is the most critical investment we can make for our future; and

WHEREAS, parents have the duty and responsibility to provide the best education possible for their children. They have a right to determine which school will best meet the needs of their children; and

WHEREAS, financial realities often preclude parents from having that choice. Parents who pay their school taxes deserve some benefit from those taxes, in the form of some assistance in the exercise of their right to choose a nonpublic school, if that is best for their children; and

WHEREAS, non-public schools (such as _____) provide an excellent education, often for a fraction of the cost of educating the same student in a public school. Non-public schools already save tax dollars. If every nonpublic school student returned to public school, the costs would be unbearable. By allowing some students to be educated in less costly nonpublic schools, school choice will offset the need for future tax increases or state budget cuts; and

WHEREAS, The parents of 171,000 students are currently making the choice to provide their children with a Catholic education at one of Pennsylvania's 530 Catholic schools. Every school is accountable to parents and the community around them on many fronts. Competition for enrollment demands nothing less; and

WHEREAS, the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program has given school choice to thousands of students; the Opportunity Scholarship Grants offered by SB 1 will grant that opportunity to thousands more.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the _____ supports Senate Bill 1, the Opportunity Scholarship and Educational Improvement Tax Credit Act and encourages the same support from the elected officials of our community. By offering scholarships for both public-to-public and public-to-private school choice, qualified families could access a number of educational options, giving them the opportunity to choose a school that they determine is best for their child; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the _____ will encourage everyone in our (membership) (Catholic school community) to contact our elected officials and make a public show of support for school choice and Senate Bill 1.

Adopted on this _____ day of _____, 2011.

Signed,

President

Attest,

Secretary