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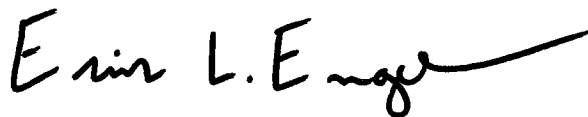
Dear Council Members:

The New York City School district, the largest in the country, excels in teaching our young students the core essential subjects such as reading, math, history, and writing. However, one important subject is missing to help students to round out their education and become responsible members of today's society—humane education. Civility, integrity, respect for others and compassion for all things, be they human or nonhuman, should be included in the education of our young children.

Over 60 years ago, New York State recognized the importance of humane education and now requires elementary schools to teach about the humane treatment of animals and to teach character education for all students in grades K-12. I encourage all school districts to implement a program to teach students about treating animals humanely, why it is important to treat their classmates with respect, and how protecting the environment affects and benefits their own lives. We can and must teach students about how they can make a positive difference.

We need to teach young students, who are the future of our society, the importance of respecting ourselves and others, showing kindness towards animals, and protecting the environment. As a former teacher in the New York City School system, I am proud to support humane and character education in New York's schools.

Sincerely,



Eliot L. Engel
MEMBER OF CONGRESS