



**THE LEAGUE
OF
HUMANE VOTERS®
OF NEW YORK**

POLITICAL ACTION FOR ANIMALS

MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT TO THE EDUCATION LAW TO REQUIRE PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO OFFER PLANT-BASED FOOD OPTIONS IN FOOD SERVICE A.3708/S.996

**TO: ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENEDETTO, CHAIR, EDUCATION COMMITTEE;
SENATOR MAYER, CHAIR, EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**CC: ASSEMBLY MEMBER RAJKUMAR;
SENATOR HOYLMAN-SIGAL**



Children enjoy trip to Farmers Market in NYC



Photo Credit: Michael Appleton / Mayoral Photography Office

Vegan Friday at PS 130 in Manhattan on Friday, Feb. 4, 2022.

The League of Humane Voters (LOHV NY) strongly supports A.3708/S.996. This important bill will provide a healthy plant-based school lunch option to students in the public school system.

Research has shown consistently that the more plant-based foods a person eats, the lower their risk of being overweight/obese, of having high cholesterol, high blood pressure, heart disease, Type 2 diabetes, Alzheimer's disease and certain cancers. Research by The National Cancer Institutes has shown that milk and dairy products along with red and processed meat and eggs are associated with the risk of breast and prostate cancer. Statistics have indicated that: 1 out of 3 children are overweight or obese; 50% of children between the ages of 2 to 15 already have fatty deposits in their arteries, literally indicating the early stage of heart disease. Children as young as 8 years old are being prescribed cholesterol and blood pressure lowering drugs and Type 2 diabetes, formerly called "adult onset", is becoming increasingly more common in school-age children. As more students opt for plant-based meals, our children will benefit from the healthier choice.

In addition, according to research published by THE JOURNAL OF SCIENCE, significantly reducing the consumption of animal products is the single biggest action an individual can take to address climate change; thereby making a better world for our children and their future.

Presently, many schools offer plant-based entrees, which already fit into the food budget. NYC schools began offering at least 2 cold plant-based entrees every day and a plant-based hot entree every Friday in all 1800 schools. They also allow schools to opt to a fully vegetarian menu which costs less to produce than the standard menu. Students all across the state should have access to culturally appropriate plant-based school meals and not just those students in NYC.

This legislation puts into place an option for public school children to eat a healthier lunch and, thus, helps them to avoid the possibilities of having long-term health problems such as Type 2 diabetes, high cholesterol leading to heart issues, certain cancers and high blood pressure. Our children will significantly benefit from the healthier plant-based school lunch option and, ultimately, the lower carbon footprint due to this choice will ensure that our children will have a better future with regard to climate change issues as well.

For these reasons, the League of Humane Voters of NY strongly supports the passage of A.3708/S.996.

The Mission of the League of Humane Voters® (LOHV®) is to create, unite, and strengthen local political action committees, which work to enact animal-friendly legislation and elect candidates for public office who will use their votes and influence for animal protection.