



ASSEMBLY MEMBER

Matt Dababneh

DISTRICT 45



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Assembly Adopts Humane Education Resolution

(SACRAMENTO) – HR 28 authored by Assemblymember Matt Dababneh (D-Encino) was adopted with bipartisan support today in the State Assembly; additionally, 73 members from both sides of the aisle proudly signed on as co-authors for HR 28. Sponsored by Social Compassion in Legislation, HR 28 calls on the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the State Board of Education, and the California Department of Education to ensure compliance with the Education Code relative to Humane Education in California’s public school system.

“Humane Education programs seek to prevent violence by teaching empathy, compassion, and respect for animals, and help our students develop into caring and responsible citizens,” states Assemblymember Dababneh. “In addition to the ethical and civic importance of Humane Education, encouraging a greater awareness about animals, nature, and their contributions towards our environment, economy, culture, and lives is invaluable.”

The primary goals of Humane Education are to promote an understanding of the sociological and psychological dimensions of animal abuse, and cultivate empathy and compassion for animals. At least ten states, including California, currently have Humane Education laws, but these laws are wide-ranging and vary greatly in subject matter and specificity. Most of the laws are statements of legislative intent and none include a budgetary allocation. Of these states, New York is generally considered to have the strongest Humane Education law.

“California has put itself on record twice when it comes to Humane Education,” states Judie Mancuso, President of Social Compassion in Legislation. “40 years later, we are still not implementing the will of the state. HR 28 reminds us that these principles are in our moral fabric and we shall include them in our schools’ curriculum. The world has gotten crueler, and we need to turn the tide and instill compassion and kindness.”

“I think we all agree, we want to produce citizens of integrity and compassion,” states Jane-Velez Mitchell, TV Journalist, author and Editor of JaneUnChained.com, a social media news channel covering animal issues. “The front line in this effort must be teaching respect for animals in our schools. The consequences of not doing so are devastating for our society.”

“Children are born with an inherent compassion toward animals, but it is society that creates the disconnection from their natural state,” states Simone Reyes, Director of Television Development at Def Pictures, and Social Compassion in Legislation Board Member. “It is imperative that the educational system be required to shed light on our often inconsistent



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relationship with animals and work to nurture a connection back to having respect for all sentient beings. This in turn will benefit not only the animals themselves, but raise generations who live consciously vs. unconsciously.”

“If we can educate our children on such important issues to protect the future of our planet, we can make our planet a more compassionate place for all living beings,” states Katie Cleary, Executive Producer of Give Me Shelter on Netflix, and Founder of the animal news network World Animal News. “What our kids learn in school becomes embedded in their language, and is reflected in their actions towards the people and animals around them. It’s time we teach our students a more compassionate future!”

HR 28 will put the state of California on record that compliance with Education Code provisions should include educating students on the principles of kindness and respect for animals and observance of laws, regulations, and policies pertaining to the humane treatment of animals, including wildlife.

Matt Dababneh represents the 45th Assembly District that includes the communities of Bell Canyon, Calabasas, Canoga Park, Chatsworth, Encino, Hidden Hills, Northridge, Reseda, Sherman Oaks, Tarzana, West Hills, Winnetka, and Woodland Hills. For more information please visit the Assemblymember’s website, www.assembly.ca.gov/a45.

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