



March 7, 2009

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing in support of House Bill ~~6564~~⁶⁵⁶⁵ and its Humane Education mandate for schools. As the co-founder and president of the Institute for Humane Education, I have seen the profound need for Humane Education at all levels of schooling.

We all know that our graduates must be proficient in the basic skills of reading, writing, and mathematics; that they need an understanding of history; that they must acquire scientific knowledge and skills; and that they be computer literate, among other skills currently taught in school.

However, in today's world, with challenges such as energy and climate change, political unrest, exponential species extinction, growing population, diminishing basic resources, escalating worldwide slavery, institutionalized animal cruelty, and many other interrelated problems, our students need more than the current basics. They need humane education that examines the challenges, offers accurate information, fosters critical thinking and creative problem solving, and instills reverence, respect, and responsibility so that they can become effective agents of positive change in whatever careers they pursue. Humane education provides the instruction and inspiration for committed citizenship and helps students to become knowledgeable about and engaged in the pressing issues of our time. In essence, it prepares them for the future in an expansive way, bringing to the "basics" relevancy for a dramatically shifting and changing world.

I am delighted that the state of Connecticut is considering such an important bill and support it wholeheartedly.

Sincerely,

Zoe Weil

Zoe Weil
President