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Grace Meng

Congress of the United States

Sixth District, New York

June 7, 2018

The Honorable Corey Johnson
Speaker
New York City Council
City Hall Office
New York, NY 10007

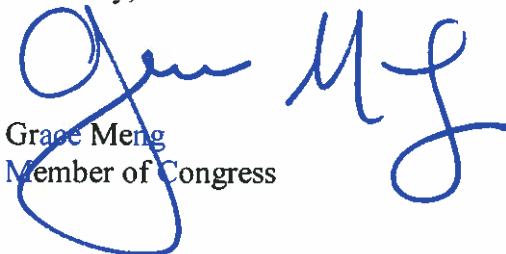
Dear Speaker Johnson:

As you draft the New York City (NYC) budget for fiscal year 2019, I urge you to consider proposals to provide halal and kosher meal options to our NYC school students. This is a priority issue for many of my constituents and for residents throughout NYC.

The NYC school system is the largest and most diverse school system in the country. We must do all we can to ensure that our school lunch program is as inclusive to the different needs of our students as possible. While NYC offers free meals to all its students, the program leaves out large percentages of students who cannot eat the food offered because it is not certified as halal or kosher. Personally, I have been fighting for this change at the federal level for several years, and I believe that NYC schools can serve as the model for national change.

I hope you will consider updating the NYC school lunch program to include halal and kosher food options. Making this important change is an essential part of addressing the dietary needs of our students and making our school system as inclusive and welcoming as possible. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Grace Meng
Member of Congress