

Congressman **Eliot Engel**



Working to Improve the Lives of People

A Report from Congressman **Eliot Engel**



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- International Relations Committee**
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Dear Neighbor:

As your Member of Congress, I am working to improve and protect the quality of life of the people of the Bronx, Rockland, and Westchester. This report will update you on my recent work in Congress.

The Violence Against Women Act was recently renewed and improved with my support. It will continue to combat domestic violence and sexual assault more effectively and expand assistance to victims.

To improve education in our schools, I am working to pass the "Keep Our Promise to America's Children and Teachers Act" so that we can have full federal funding for the "No Child Left Behind Act".

I am continuing my efforts to change our nation's health care system. I have written and supported legislation to create a structure that will provide every American with quality, affordable health care when they get sick, lose their jobs or have jobs that do not provide health care benefits.

To improve health care and education, I am working to pass the Prevention First Act that provides all women with access to comprehensive family planning options and education and other health care legislation. I am also co-sponsoring legislation to make equal pay for equal work a reality as quickly as possible.

As always, I ask that you send me your opinions, suggestions and views on these and other important issues.

You can also go to my website <http://engel.house.gov> for additional information on my work for you in Congress, to contact me and to sign up for special e-mail updates.

Sincerely,
Eliot L. Engel
Eliot L. Engel, Member of Congress

Eliot L. Engel
M.C.
Presorted Standard

This mailing was prepared, published and mailed at taxpayer expense.

WORKING TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF PEOPLE

Education. Safety.

Health Care. Equality.

The best education for every child in every school

As a former school teacher, Eliot Engel knows how critical it is that our children receive the best possible education.

In Congress, he has obtained millions to improve education in the Bronx, Rockland and Westchester.

These funds have been used to hire new teachers, repair schools, put new computers and technology in classrooms and expand after-school programs. Headstart programs have received federal funds. He has worked with parent groups to alleviate overcrowding

by having new schools constructed.

Congressman Engel is co-sponsoring the “Keep Our Promise to America’s Children and Teachers Act” to have full funding for the No Child Left Behind law.

Four years ago Members of Congress voted for the “No Child Left Behind Act” because they “were assured that it would be fully funded. Instead, we are failing our public school children because Congress has not appropriated the needed federal funds for education,” Engel stated.

Passing legislation to make lives safer

Congressman Eliot Engel was a leader in successfully working to renew and expand the Violence Against Women Act.

Originally passed in 1994 with Eliot Engel’s support, the Violence Against Women Act was the first federal law to acknowledge domestic violence and sexual assaults as specific crimes and to provide funding to combat the violence.

It has saved lives, provided safety for tens of thousands of women and children, and greatly improved the response of the criminal

justice system to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

“We were not only able to overcome opposition and renew the law, but also to increase funding to \$3.9 billion and expand services,” Engel stated.

Engel has also worked to pass laws to get guns off our streets, ban assault weapons and make our nation more secure.

He obtained federal funds for our local police and fire departments and to combat drugs and violence in our community.

Working for quality, affordable health care

Congressman Engel has authored and co-sponsored health care legislative proposals and obtained millions in federal funds to improve health care in our communities.

A Fair Medicare Prescription Benefit.

Engel voted against the law that created the Medicare Part D drug program because it failed to provide seniors with relief from the high cost of prescription drugs, is overly complex, and even bans Medicare from negotiating with drug companies for lower prices. Engel supports legislation to completely overhaul the law.

Mammograms. Congressman Engel is supporting legislation that will require

insurance companies to cover mammograms for women over 40 and for Medicare to cover annual exams for women over 65.

Patients' Bill of Rights. Congressman Engel supports legislation to hold health insurers and HMOs accountable for their actions.

The Prevention First Act. Congressman Eliot Engel is a co-sponsor of the bipartisan “Prevention First Act” that would improve health care services to women. It would also provide family planning services, including teen pregnancy prevention, programs to reduce sexually transmitted diseases, and emergency contraceptives for rape survivors.

Acting to make equal pay for equal work a reality

It has been forty-three years since the Equal Pay Act of 1963 was passed, but today women working full-time are paid only 76 cents for every dollar a man earns.

At the current rate, equal pay for equal work will not be achieved until 2042. To make equality a reality, Congressman Engel is working to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act to strengthen and speed enforcement of the Equal Pay Act.

The law would prohibit companies from punishing employees who share salary information. Many companies have a “gag rule” banning discussion of wages among

employees. This makes it difficult to uncover wage discrimination.

It would require employers to provide equal pay in all of their “establishments,” no matter where they are located in the nation; close loopholes to make it easier to take action and prove wage discrimination; and develop voluntary guidelines so that employers can compare wages to see if differences accurately reflect job requirements.

“Equal pay for equal work should not take more generations to become a reality. This legislation will make equal pay for equal work a reality in our lifetime,” Engel stated.



Easter Seals New York commending Congressman Eliot Engel at a New York City Hall press conference for his opposing a \$10 billion from Medicaid. Medicaid provides funding for 70% of Easter Seals services. “We appreciate Congressman Engel’s leadership in helping us to protect the rights of people with disabilities and those in the marginalized sectors of our society,” said John McGrath, Vice President of Development for Easter Seals New York.