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October 26, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to write a letter of support to the PUMP Initiative for their free **Virtual Learning Program** in Harlem, New York. PUMP Initiative, a non-profit organization committed to educating and empowering the youth of our communities. The current virus has shaken our lives and drastically changed many aspects of education. In light of the health & safety measures throughout the nation, they have created a free **Virtual Learning Program**. This program is designed to provide families with private 1-on-1 support virtually, free of cost. Available to all students from 3rd - 12th grade for academic, creative arts, technology, or life skills. They take volunteers from colleges and working industries, and train them inside of our philosophy and education models to become mentors. Their program is two-sided, focused on the growth of both educator and student.

Their efforts are the product of collaboration with community leaders, elected officials, educators, and administrative workers all volunteering their time and effort for the success of our communities. Their work in the past has empowered hundreds of families throughout New York City. This would show not only our parents and youth your support but your concern for their education in the communities. Hopefully they will have us come to help motivate the youth in understanding virtual learning, the new adjustment to their education, as well as mentorship, health and mental wellness.

It is my hope that you will seriously consider the PUMP Initiative for this funding request. I look forward to a continued partnership with PMP Initiative to address the needs of children and families in Harlem.

Sincerely,

Inez E. Dickens
New York State Assembly, 70th District