

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

**Steve Stern**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

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**FDA ADOPTS LEGISLATOR STEVE STERN'S  
"TOXIN-FREE TODDLERS AND BABIES ACT"**

*BPA Banned from Baby Bottles and Sippy-Cups Nationwide*

**HUNTINGTON, NY** – Legislator Steve Stern's (D-Huntington, 16<sup>th</sup> LD) *groundbreaking first-in-the-nation legislation* to protect babies and toddlers from ingesting the synthetic estrogen Bisphenol-A (BPA), contained in hard plastics used in baby bottles and "sippy" cups designed for young children, has been adopted by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

In 2009, the Legislature passed Legislator Stern's bill, making Suffolk County the first jurisdiction in the nation to ban the sale of infant and toddler drinking items that contain BPA, which has been linked to endocrine and hormonal abnormalities in babies and young children and is detectable in 93% of the population. Numerous independent scientific studies have shown that leaching of BPA has serious health consequences such as neurobehavioral disorders, including hyperactivity and learning disorders, disorders of the prostate and uterus, links to heart disease, abnormal liver function and diabetes and increased susceptibility to breast and prostate cancer.

Since the passage of the groundbreaking "Toxin-Free Toddlers and Babies Act," more than a dozen states, including New York, Minnesota, Massachusetts and California and the European Union have passed bans on BPA in children's beverage containers. This FDA action finally extends this policy nationwide. "Suffolk County has always taken the lead in protecting public health," Legislator Stern said. "I strongly believe we must follow the precautionary principle and be pro-active, especially when the health of our most vulnerable citizens, our babies and young children, is at risk and safe alternatives are available. I am proud to have led this initiative to protect the health of our young children from this hazard."