

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

**Steve Stern**

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## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **LEGISLATOR STEVE STERN ADVISES SENIORS OF MEDICARE PART D OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD**

*Enrollment period is from October 15, 2012-December 7, 2012*

**HUNTINGTON, NY** –Suffolk County Legislator Steve Stern (D-Huntington) 16<sup>th</sup> LD, Chairman of the Veterans & Seniors Committee, is advising seniors that open enrollment for Medicare Part D prescription drug plans begins on October 15, 2012. Those eligible for Medicare Part D will have until December 7, 2012 to change their current plan or enroll in a plan for the first time. It is very important to carefully review your current coverage, whether it is an existing Medicare Part D plan or prescription coverage provided from an employer or union before enrolling in a new plan. This is the time for you to consider your current and future prescription needs to determine if your current plan is still the right plan for you. Please note that there have also been changes to the EPIC plan. EPIC enrollees are **REQUIRED** to be enrolled in a Medicare Part D plan. Eligibility for EPIC has changed and you may now be eligible, even if you have not been in the past. If you have any questions regarding EPIC coverage, please call the EPIC Hotline at 1 (800) 332-3742.

Each year, Medicare Part D providers make coverage changes. These may include premiums, formularies of covered medications and possible coverage in the “Donut Hole,” the period when an enrollee is responsible for a portion of the cost of medications. If you are currently enrolled in a Medicare Part D plan, you should have received notification of plan changes, including premium cost, formulary and benefits that will begin on January 1, 2013. If you need information regarding Medicare Part D plans, you can call 1(800) MEDICARE, go to [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov), speak with your pharmacist or call the Suffolk County Office for the Aging HIICAP Hotline at (631) 853-6651 for assistance.