

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, May 20, 2014

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LEGISLATOR STEVE STERN GOES “GRAY FOR MAY” TO MARK BRAIN TUMOR AWARENESS MONTH

Promotes research and advocacy for children and others affected.



HUNTINGTON, NY- Legislator Steve Stern (D—Huntington, 16th LD) declared May as Brain Tumor Awareness Month during the Suffolk County Legislative meeting May 13, 2014.

The entire Suffolk County Legislature went “Gray for May,” during the session, sporting gray ribbons, the symbol for brain tumor awareness.

Brain tumors are a particularly concerning health issue since they statistically occur more frequently in children. While not all brain tumors are cancerous, many are. In fact, brain tumors are the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in children under the age of 20. They are second only to leukemia.

Being able to diagnose and treat brain tumors is of utmost importance since it is the brain and spinal cord together that form the central nervous system, controlling our personality, thoughts, memory, intelligence, speech and understanding, emotions, senses, and basic body functions, as well as how we function in our environment. It is tough enough to fight a complex disease, but it is even more plaguing when the ability to focus, move or understand is affected by a brain tumor.

Since these tumors are located in such a sensitive area of our bodies, they can often be difficult to remove. If cancerous, many patients must undergo a series of chemotherapy and other treatments, which can be just as challenging, or even more so, than having the tumor itself.

While there are 120 different types of brain tumors, only four treatments have been approved by the FDA and the causes are still unknown.

“It is my hope that with more education and awareness, we will find better methods of treatment, prevention and eventually, a cure for brain tumors,” Legislator Stern said.

“I thank all of my colleagues for supporting this legislation. I am encouraged by their support that with better understanding, research and treatment of brain tumors, we will improve and ultimately, save the lives of our children and residents battling this condition.”