

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

**Steve Stern**

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATOR  
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**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**LEGISLATOR STEVE STERN WARNS RESIDENTS ABOUT SCAM  
ROBOCALLS PROMISING “FREE GIFTS”**

*Calls Claim to be From New York State Office For the Aging*

**HUNTINGTON, NY** – Legislator Steve Stern (D-Huntington, 16<sup>th</sup> L.D.), Chairman of the Veterans and Seniors Committee, is warning residents not to respond to recorded “Robocalls” claiming to be affiliated with the New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOA.) These calls encourage residents to “Press 1” to access free Medic Alert pins and thousands of dollars in coupons. The scammers then seek to obtain personal information from residents. According to Kelly Brown Mateja, Director of Aging Projects and Community Collaborations for NYSOA, this is a scam. NYSOA does not give away items, money or coupons and NEVER solicits personal information over the phone. You should NEVER disclose such information to anyone who contacts you. Hang up the phone immediately.

“Many of us have received phone calls seeking personal information or making offers of free gifts or other benefits,” Legislator Stern said. “Government offices do not make phone calls or send e-mails or texts, soliciting personal information. Scammers try to scare people into providing this information. It is important to remain vigilant and refuse to disclose personal information to unsolicited callers.”

Financial scams should be reported to the Consumer Protection Division of the New York State Attorney General’s Office at 1-800-771-7755, the New York State Department of Financial Services at 1-800-697-1220 or the New York State Department of State at 518-474-8583.