

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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PRESS RELEASE

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**LEGISLATOR STEVE STERN'S "SAFER SALES SLIP ACT" PASSES
LEGISLATURE**

*Legislature that passed the First- in- the- Nation ban on BPA continues to Lead the way in
Protecting Public Health*

HUNTINGTON, NY—Legislator Steve Stern (D-Huntington, 16th LD) is proud to announce that the “*Safer Sales Slip Act*,” was approved by the Legislature at its December 4th General Session. This initiative will protect Suffolk County residents from exposure to the chemical Bisphenol-A (BPA), contained in thermal paper cash register receipts distributed by retail establishments, bank ATMS and gas station pumps. BPA is a proven endocrine disruptor and has been linked to a myriad of health problems for men, women and children. Suffolk County will once again lead the nation in limiting exposure to this known toxin.

In 2009, Legislator Stern authored the “*Toxin Free Toddlers and Babies Act*,” the first legislation in the nation to ban BPA from baby bottles and cups for young children. That landmark legislation has since been adopted by several states, the European Union and finally this fall, nationwide by the FDA.

Legislator Stern’s new law will remove an everyday source of exposure to BPA, thermal paper receipts, which use BPA to “develop” the print. BPA is absorbed through the skin and through hand to mouth contact, and has been linked to cancers of the breast and prostate, endocrine disorders, learning disabilities, obesity and diabetes and is detectable in more than 93% of the population. “This legislation is an important step toward protecting the public from a significant source of exposure to BPA, an endocrine disruptor linked to many serious health threats,” said Mark Mitchell, MD, MPH, President, Mitchell Environmental Health Associates, Co-Chair, Environmental Health Task Force, and National Medical Association. “The time to act is now—we cannot continue to wait for industry and the Federal government to take action to protect public health. I strongly support Legislator Stern’s ‘Safer Sales Slip Act.’”

According to Dr. Philip Landrigan, Professor of Pediatrics, Chair of Preventive Medicine and Dean for Global Health, Children's Environmental Health Center, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, "This resolution takes an even stronger approach by banning the use of BPA in thermal paper, thus protecting the health of the public by reducing exposures to BPA for all Suffolk County families and most especially, pregnant or nursing women, and women of childbearing age, who are vulnerable to exposures to toxic chemicals. As leaders in Pediatrics and Preventative Medicine, we strongly support this Legislation."

"The Huntington Breast Cancer Action Coalition (HBCAC) applauds Legislator Stern and the Suffolk County Legislature for taking this important step to protect public health," said Karen Miller, HBCAC President. HBCAC's mission is "Prevention is the Cure' and this law will help prevent exposure to a known cause of disease"

"Thank you to Legislator Stern and the Suffolk County Legislature for once again being a stellar role model for our entire nation by banning the estrogenic, toxic chemical, "BPA" in sales receipts. Another giant step for public health," said Laura Weinberg, president of the Great Neck Breast Cancer Coalition.

"Suffolk County led the way in protecting the public against exposure to BPA with the passage of the ***"Toxin Free Toddlers and Babies Act,"*** and once again will be in the forefront by eliminating one of the most prevalent sources of exposure to this toxin-the sales receipt," Legislator Stern said. "Most people are unaware of the danger posed by a seemingly harmless piece of paper. This is unacceptable when inexpensive alternatives are available and being used by many retailers. The ***"Safer Sales Slip Act"*** will help ensure that Suffolk County residents are protected from this everyday source of exposure to BPA."