

**PRESS RELEASE FROM
LEGISLATOR SARAH ANKER**

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Anker Initiates Law to Require Liquid Nicotine Warning Signs

Dekang E-liquid PG/VG PEG



Mt. Sinai, NY- Following the death of a one-year-old child in Fort Plain, New York, from ingesting liquid nicotine, Suffolk County Legislator Sarah Anker is introducing legislation requiring liquid nicotine warning signs to be posted in Suffolk County businesses where the product is sold.

“This tragic death makes it painfully obvious that liquid nicotine is a real and immediate threat to our residents in Suffolk County,” said Legislator Anker. “As the use of e-cigarettes continues to increase, we need to do more to ensure

the safety of our residents, especially our children, by requiring that warning signs be posted in stores.”

Legislator Anker is working extensively with the Suffolk County Department of Health Services, who will provide a liquid nicotine warning sign- a downloadable document for businesses in Suffolk County. The sign will read:

Liquid Nicotine Warning:

Liquid nicotine may be poisonous if swallowed, inhaled or if it comes in contact with skin. It is not regulated so the amount of nicotine in any container is uncertain. **KEEP OUT OF CHILDREN’S REACH.** The use of liquid nicotine can be addictive. It may increase heart rate and blood pressure, cause dizziness and nausea, and aggravate respiratory conditions. Women who are pregnant or breast-feeding, persons with, or at risk for heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, or taking medicine for depression or asthma should not use this product. **INGESTION OF LIQUID NICOTINE MAY BE FATAL.**

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“It is always tragic when we lose one of our children in such a senseless manner,” said Suffolk County Legislature Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory. “We have to make sure that anyone using liquid nicotine in e-cigarettes understands the terrible risks associated with this product.”

“With two of the largest manufactures of these products already putting warning labels on their products this law creates no undue burden on the manufacturer, while taking steps to prevent another tragic and unnecessary death,” said Majority Leader Robert Calarco.

E-cigarettes use disposable or refillable liquid nicotine cartridges. Products are available that allow e-cigarette users to refill their own cartridges with liquid nicotine. Exposure to nicotine in large doses is highly addictive, toxic, can cause nicotine poisoning, and, in extreme cases, may be lethal. Liquid nicotine is especially dangerous, as nicotine is easily absorbed through the skin and some flavors may be enticing to small children. Even a small spill of liquid nicotine onto the hands or other body part of an adult, child or household pet can cause nicotine poisoning.

Calls to poison control centers involving liquid nicotine have increased sharply, with more than 50% of those calls involving children under the age of 5. Suffolk was one of the first jurisdictions in the nation to recognize the health risks posed by e-cigarettes and liquid nicotine and prohibited the sale of these products to minors in 2009, and strengthened the law in 2014 to prohibit the sale to anyone under the age of 21.

Legislator Anker has made advocating for increased awareness of the dangers associated with this product a top priority. “With our children’s lives at stake, we cannot afford to wait,” said Legislator Anker.

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