

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE  
COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



Office of Suffolk County Legislator Kevin J. McCaffrey, 14<sup>th</sup> District

For Immediate Release  
Date: May 29, 2015

Contact: Gregory Atherton  
Phone: 631-854-1100

## LEGISLATOR MCCAFFREY PARTICIPATES IN “SAFE START PROGRAM” WITH LOCAL PUBLIC SAFETY EXPERTS



*Pictured Left: Werner Freitag (EAC inspector) gives pointers to a parent. Pictured Right: Police Officer Butcher; Legislator Kevin McCaffrey, Sergeant Kathleen Kennelly; Angela Brockmann (EAC/Safe Start); Ken (District Manager of West Babylon Fire Department); Rachel Lugo (EAC/Safe Start); Werner Freitag (EAC inspector); Bell, Melissa & Tiffany (EAC coordinators).*

West Babylon, NY: Legislator Kevin McCaffrey (R-Lindenhurst) recently joined with members of the Education & Assistance Corporation (EAC), Suffolk County police officers, and personnel from the West Babylon Fire Department, for the EAC’s Safe Start Program, which educates the public on the proper installation and use of child car seats.

As the summer season rapidly approaches, many families across Suffolk County are gearing up to hit the road to visit local attractions or for a vacation. Getting to these destinations in a safe manner is certainly a priority, but many people are unaware of the fact that studies show that approximately three out of every four car seats are improperly installed. This statistic may indeed come as a shock to people who would otherwise consider the installation of a car seat as a thoroughly routine and simple procedure.

“This event was a real eye-opener for many of the participants today,” said McCaffrey. “It is

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scary how something so important to the safety of our children is often overlooked. The truth of the matter is that the proper installation and type of car seat used can mean the difference between life and death. The Safe Start Program is providing an invaluable service and I hope to see it expand its outreach efforts. Needless to say, I will certainly be planning future car seat educational programs with the EAC.”

In total, 19 vehicles with car seats were checked, and 10 free replacement seats were given to those whose equipment was damaged, out of date, or improperly sized for the child. In addition to the parents and grandparents getting an education that far too few receive, a number of police officers were also being trained by the experts.

*To learn more about the EAC and its Safe Start Program, you can visit their website at:  
<http://www.eacinc.org/safe-start-program>.*