

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

WILLIAM R. SPENCER
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATOR
EIGHTEENTH DISTRICT
15 Park Circle, Suite 209
CENTERPORT, NY 11721



CONTACT: **LIZ ALEXANDER**
CHIEF LEGISLATIVE AIDE
OFFICE: 631-854-4500

Elizabeth.Alexander@suffolkcountyny.gov

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bill Signing Event Protecting Youth from Powdered Caffeine May Have National Implications

Hauppauge, NY - A Suffolk County bill that will be signed into law by County Executive Steve Bellone on Wednesday, November 5th will ban the sale of powdered caffeine to minors. The bill aimed at protecting our youth from the dangers of caffeine toxicity was unanimously approved by the Suffolk County Legislature during the October 7th General Meeting. **I.R. 1727** was introduced by Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory and co-sponsored by Legislator William R. Spencer (D-Centerport) in response to the recent upsurge in reports of overdoses associated with powdered caffeine. The bill has received national attention as federal lawmakers are looking to form a delegation with Legislators Gregory and Spencer to meet in Washington D.C. in early December to lobby the FDA on classifying pure caffeine as a drug and to implement protective regulations including the ban of the sale of the product to minors. The bill has also received the attention of Hard Rhino, the company that produces the caffeine product, and who is now looking to change their formulation by reducing the potency.

WHO: Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone
Presiding Officer of the Suffolk County Legislature DuWayne Gregory
Suffolk County Legislator William R. Spencer
Other County Legislators
Suffolk County Department of Health Commissioner Dr. James Tomarken

WHAT: Bill signing for I.R. 1727, prohibiting the sale of powdered caffeine to minors in Suffolk County

WHEN: Wednesday, November 5, 11:30 a.m.

WHERE: Lobby of H. Lee Dennison Building, Hauppauge

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