

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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From left to right: Stephen Martinez, Sophia Martinez, Katherine Pullows, Legislator Martinez, Legislator Spencer, Legislator Browning, Legislator Calarco and Evan Martinez in the front

Through the Eyes of a Child

12 Year-Old Evan Martinez Testifies Before the Suffolk County Health Committee on Product Placement of Alcohol and Tobacco Products

Hauppauge, NY- Evan Martinez, a 12 year old 6th grader at Woodhull Intermediate School in Huntington, came before the Suffolk County's Health Committee on Thursday and spoke about observations he has made on where tobacco and alcohol products are placed in convenience stores and gas stations. "I've noticed that cigarette and alcohol ads are placed at my eye level to attract kids and make us curious. I think they do this on purpose to get more customers." Legislator Spencer commended Evan, "You are a brave young man for coming forward today and speaking up so articulately, you show maturity beyond your years."

Evan's mom Katherine stated, "Evan and his family were honored to participate and have a voice regarding such important matters that affect young lives. It was an experience that I hope Evan will carry with him through life. The knowledge that we can change the world through education, dialogue and the shared idea is a lesson for life."

Evan's testimony came on the 25th anniversary of the United Nations' adoption of a groundbreaking charter called the "Convention on the Rights of the Child" which is the world's most rapidly ratified human rights treaty in history. November 20th is also *Suffolk County Day of the Child*, a day to raise awareness on children's issues.

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