

# SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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## ***MEDIA RELEASE***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## ***FDA Takes Notice of Suffolk's First in the Nation Law Protecting Youth from Powdered Caffeine***

Centerport, NY – Suffolk County Legislator William Spencer, M.D. tips his hat to the Food and Drug Administration for finally taking enforcement action against companies distributing powdered caffeine. With no FDA policies regulating the product, consumers have been at risk. A mere teaspoon of the deadly product is roughly equal to 28 cups of coffee and a tablespoon can prove fatal.

Late last year, following the tragic deaths of otherwise healthy young men, Logan Stiner and Wade Sweatt, a delegation was formed to testify before FDA officials to urge them to tame the Wild West market of caffeine products for the safety of our youth. Legislator William R. Spencer, M.D. who joined the delegation, along with the parents of the young men, stated, "The work of our delegation bears fruit with this recent action taken by the FDA. Today I am thinking about Logan and Wade. May their families and loved ones find comfort in this well-deserved and necessary outcome. This action is a step in the right direction to ensure that no other family will have to suffer such a senseless loss."

The action taken by the FDA came in the form of enforcement letters warning five distributors that continuing sales of powdered caffeine as labeled will result in action, including the potential seizure of the products under the law. The delegation is hoping that the FDA's next step will be to ban the product.

Suffolk County has already approved a law to protect our most vulnerable from this toxic product. I.R. 1727, a Local Law that prohibits the sale and distribution of powdered caffeine to individuals under the age of 18 in Suffolk County was unanimously approved by the legislature in October of 2014.

**Legislator William R. Spencer, M.D. is available for interview**

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