

# Opinion

'Not the types set up by the printer return their impression, the meaning, the main concern.'

## BPA Ban A No-Brainer

The vote by members of the Suffolk County Legislature was unanimous and the county became the first in the nation to ban the sale of baby bottles and other children's products that contain BPA. But the bill does not become law until it is signed by the County Executive.

It's a no-brainer.

Legislators voted the way they did because there is credible evidence linking BPA (Bisphenol-A) – a chemical compound commonly used in the manufacture of hard plastics – to hormone and endocrine abnormalities.

The plastics industry is marshaling its forces to stop the ban, saying the evidence

is not conclusive.

It was good enough for Target, which has reportedly pulled BPA-containing baby bottles from its shelves voluntarily. It should be good enough for Steve Levy as well.

Keeping in mind that the tobacco industry only recently conceded that smoking causes lung cancer, we say it's safer to err on the side of caution, particularly where children are concerned. This legislative act protects the county's youngest citizens during the most vulnerable period in their development. Even without a veto-proof majority of lawmakers backing the bill, it should be made law. Sign it, Mr. Levy.

### EDITORIAL

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Support BPA Plastics Ban

DEAR EDITOR:

What a huge victory to see that the Suffolk County legislature heeded the words and testimony from numerous scientific experts, physicians, nurses, community advocates and concerned citizens! The unanimous passage of the Toxin Free Toddler and Baby Act holds great clout for our cause. Young children are at the highest risk of developing altered estrogen and progesterone levels, due to the insidious effects of Bisphenol-A (BPA). There is also much scientific evidence linking cancers, developmental delays, diabetes, and obesity to toxicity from exposure.

A tremendous thank you is owed to County Legislator Steve Stern for his continuous efforts to ensure that this bill passed.

Our work is not complete until County Executive Steve Levy signs the Toxin Free Toddler and Baby Act into law. Many industry leaders remain adamantly opposed to the ban of BPA and there will be immense pressure on the County Executive to veto the bill.

It is imperative to make your voice heard, loudly and clearly. We are very thankful that the Suffolk County Legislative Body took a firm stand to protect the health of our children, and we request that County Ex-

ecutive Steve Levy follows suit, taking a firm stance to create a law banning BPA from baby bottles and beverage containers suitable for children and under.

**KAREN MILLER  
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