

**P R E S S R E L E A S E F R O M L E G I S L A T O R
S T E V E N H . S T E R N**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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**LEGISLATOR STEVE STERN ADVISES SENIORS OF UPCOMING
MEDICARE PART D OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD**

Enrollment period is from November 15th – December 31st 2009

HUNTINGTON, NY –Suffolk County Legislator Steve Stern (D-Huntington) 16th LD, Chairman of the Veterans & Seniors Committee, is advising seniors that open enrollment for Medicare Part D prescription drug benefits will begin on November 15, 2009. Those eligible for Medicare Part D will have until December 31, 2009 to change their current plan or enroll in a plan for the first time.

It is very important to carefully review your current coverage, whether it is an existing Medicare Part D plan or prescription coverage provided from an employer or union before enrolling in a new plan. If you have "creditable coverage," that is coverage that is equal to or better than what Medicare Part D provides, you should speak to a HIICAP specialist at the Suffolk County Office for the Aging for advice on whether you should consider enrolling in Medicare Part D.

Each year, Medicare Part D providers make coverage changes. These may include premiums, formularies of covered medications and the size of the "Donut Hole," the period when an enrollee is responsible for all of the costs of medication. Medicare Part D plans must notify their enrollees of any such changes no later than October 31, 2009.

If you need information regarding Medicare Part D plans, you can call 1(800) MEDICARE, go to www.medicare.gov or call the Suffolk County Office for the Aging HIICAP Hotline at (631) 853-6651 for assistance.