

## PRESS RELEASE

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# Suffolk County Passes Legislation to Warn Visitors of Wireless Radiation Exposure

## *Signage to be Posted at All County Buildings Because of Health Concerns*

(Riverhead, NY) Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone has signed legislation requiring all county buildings to post notices that wireless routers are in use. The new law, sponsored by Legislator and pediatrician Dr. William Spencer and passed unanimously by the Suffolk County legislature, cites health concerns and includes a warning that every wireless device emits radio frequency radiation.

"This is a right-to-know issue. Women who are or may become pregnant, parents of young children, seniors with implanted medical devices and other vulnerable populations have a right to know where routers are located so that they can make choices about whether - and how much - to be exposed," says Patricia Wood, Executive Director of Grassroots Environmental Education, which first brought the issue to the attention of lawmakers. "If someone is trying to avoid unnecessary radiation because of the potential health impacts, they need to know where the radiation is coming from."

Recent studies have confirmed that exposure to wireless radiation can have biological effects, not just thermal effects as has been long assumed. FCC exposure limits established in the 1990's are based solely on the projected thermal effects of exposure on an average 160-pound adult male. The FCC is currently re-evaluating its exposure limits, but no decision is expected for several years.

Cell phone and modem manufacturers are aware of the health risks of wireless radiation, and every device comes with a legal warning to avoid direct or close contact. In the case of most routers, the FCC requires manufacturers to recommend a distance of several inches, although radiation levels often remain high within 6 to 10 feet of a router.

Concern over wireless radiation has increased since a 2012 study at Yale University demonstrated brain abnormalities and behavioral problems resembling ADHD in the offspring of mice exposed to wireless radiation. (Aldad *et al*, "Fetal Radiofrequency

Radiation Exposure From 800-1900 Mhz-Rated Cellular Telephones Affects Neurodevelopment and Behavior in Mice" Science Reports 2:312)