



**THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
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****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

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**STATEMENT BY THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
RE: BAT BILL VETO**

“This bill will prevent injuries among high school athletes and make the game of baseball safer. After seeing ample evidence that non-wood bats can significantly increase the risk for young athletes, the City Council decided to take action to reduce this unnecessary danger. We expect the full Council to consider a veto override vote later this month,” said Speaker Christine C. Quinn.

There have been several recent incidents in which children have been injured due to the use of non-wood bats. Following several hearings, and considerable review of this issue, members of the City Council voted to ban the use of non-wood bats in high schools. The legislation, sponsored by Council Members James Oddo and Lewis Fidler, would only allow wood bats that have been approved by Major League Baseball for Major or Minor League play to be used in high school baseball games.

Council Minority Leader James Oddo said, “Chicago Cubs great Ernie Banks often said, ‘Let’s play two!’ I now look forward to the opportunity to once again vote to protect the safety and welfare of our young athletes.”

Council Member Lewis Fidler, Chair of the Council’s Youth Services Committee, said, “The vast majority of kids affected by our legislation will be New York City high school students in PSAL games. The city runs these games, and we are responsible for the health and safety of these kids. If not us, then who?”

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