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State lawmakers take a stand in annual anti-violence event

Lawmakers and young men filled the largest auditorium of the State House

Tiffany Chan, 22News State House Correspondent Published: March 3, 2016, 6:03 pm Updated: March 3, 2016, 6:46 pm
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BOSTON, Mass. (WWLP) – It's a nationwide movement to end violence against women, and Thursday, state lawmakers and young men pledged to find a solution.

Top state leaders are speaking out against rape, sexual assault and domestic violence against women. The annual White Ribbon Day event is organized by the advocacy group Jane Doe, Inc.

State lawmakers and young men filled the largest auditorium of the State House Thursday to take a stand that, "From this day forward, they promise to be a part of the solution in ending violence against women and all gender-based violence."

Governor Charlie Baker, members of his cabinet, district attorneys and several local police chiefs were all in attendance.

Many victims of domestic violence and sexual assault suffer in silence. Northwestern District Attorney David Sullivan told 22 News that many more women are victimized in western Massachusetts than you may think. "The number of cases we have in our office, over 1,500 a year involve domestic violence. That doesn't include restraining orders, so domestic violence is still an epidemic."

D.A. Sullivan added that he hopes the event will call attention to the need for more safe houses for victims.