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## Youths, area leaders rally to back bill banning alcohol ads on state property

Posted by Matt Rocheleau January 26, 2012 06:13 PM

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(Matt Rocheleau for Boston.com)

Representing SAFE MA, Stacy Carruth, a community health specialist at the Regional Center for Healthy Communities (Metrowest) speaks about the bill in the Massachusetts legislature to ban alcohol advertisement on state property.

**By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent**

Dozens of young people joined legislative and medical leaders today in downtown Boston to rally support for a bill that would ban alcohol advertising on all state property.

State Representative Martin Walsh said he is "very confident" that House bill 851, which he is co-sponsoring, would pass the House and Senate and become a law by July 31. He has said he expects it would go into effect between six months to one year after that.

The movement gained a boost [this week](#) when the MBTA said that, beginning July 1, it would prohibit alcohol ads from appearing on all of its property, including inside subway cars, trains and buses.

If the proposed law is approved, it would ban alcohol ads from running on other state property, including on billboards that sit on state property or on marketing space along state-owned buildings.

Many at today's rally outside the Park Street T station said they believe that public alcohol ads, particularly on public transit, contribute to teen drinking.

"I don't think it's fair that we're spending money on alcohol advertising on public transit when we're trying to get kids off that stuff."

I don't like the fact that every time I take the train or bus to school, alcohol ads are all I see," said Julia Roberto, a ninth-grader at Boston Latin School. "They're everywhere. They're in my face and I can't avoid them."

"The effects of alcohol ads on youth and underage drinking are well-documented, and yet Massachusetts still puts them out there," added Roberto, one of five members of a substance-abuse youth coalition that helped convince



