

**CHARLIE BAKER**  
*Governor*



**KARYN POLITO**  
*Lt. Governor*

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## **Lt. Governor Karyn Polito Announces Community Impact Discussions: Preventing Sexual Violence**

*Along with members of the Governor's Council to Address Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence, Lt. Governor Polito will visit Rape Crisis Centers across the Commonwealth*

**BOSTON** – Today, at the Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance Victim Rights Month Awards Ceremony and in conjunction with Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Lt. Governor Karyn Polito announced her plan to convene Community Impact Discussions focusing on the prevention of sexual violence.

The discussions will open a dialogue between state government, community support networks, and subject matter experts to highlight community prevention strategies and areas of improvement tailored to different regions across the Commonwealth. The discussions will showcase certain successes, help develop regional collaboration, and identify community-specific needs as the Baker-Polito Administration and Governor's Council to Address Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence continue to take steps to stop sexual violence in Massachusetts.

"The Governor's Council to Address Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence is leading efforts to stop violence in the Commonwealth, because no individual, child, or family should ever have to become a victim or a survivor to violence," **said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito.** "I look forward to these regional conversations as a way to continue learning about opportunities to increase prevention efforts with the goal of reducing

the number of individuals who experience sexual violence in their lives.”

The Community Impact Discussions will take place across the state throughout the month of April and beginning of May.

For more information on locations or to participate in a local discussion, please reach out to Kelly Dwyer at [kelly.dwyer@state.ma.us](mailto:kelly.dwyer@state.ma.us).

In April 2015, Governor Baker signed Executive Order 563, re-launching the Governor’s Council to Address Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence. Over its first year, the Council’s priorities included analyzing and reporting on the implementation of Chapter 260: *An Act Relative to Domestic Violence* and a report was issued providing updates on each of the 49 actionable provisions within the law. The Council has launched work groups in five priority areas, including child trafficking and prevention education in schools and universities.

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