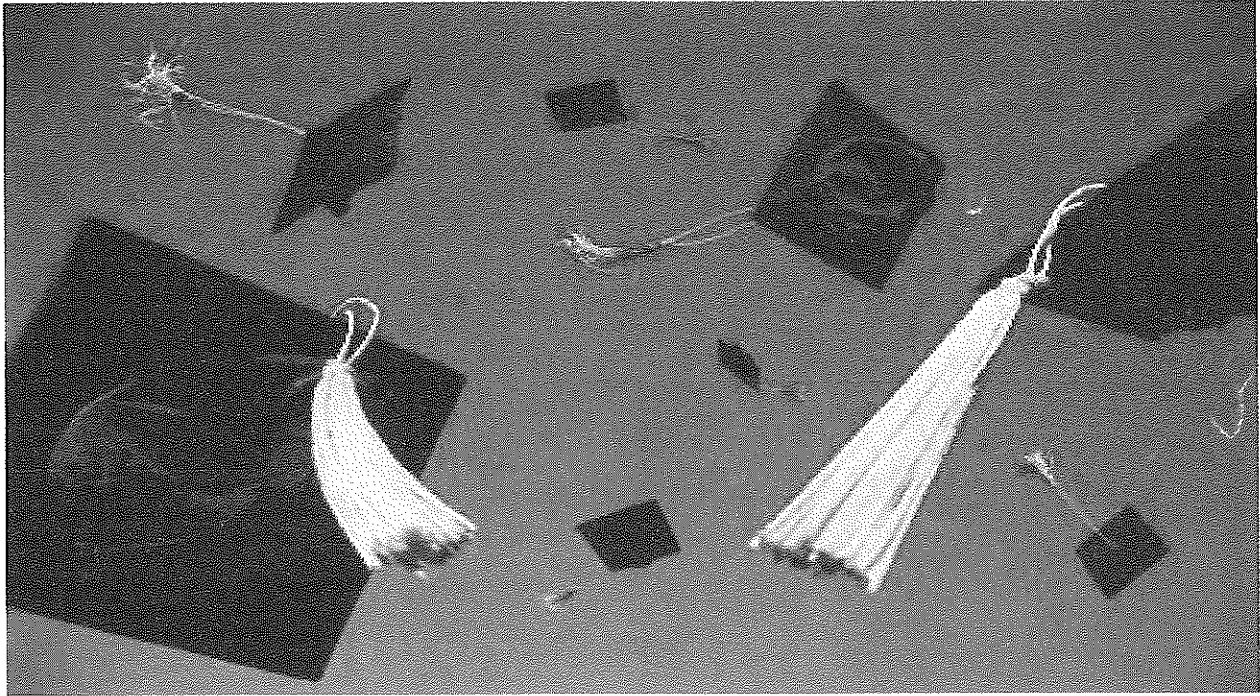


A MESSAGE FROM DISTRICT ATTORNEY JONATHAN BLODGETT



A SAFE PROM AND GRADUATION IS A COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY

This is a special time of celebration for parents and students who are graduating from high school.

We all want our young people to enjoy these important milestones, and we have a shared responsibility to ensure that their celebrations are safe and lawful, free of drug use and underage drinking. Unfortunately, one poor decision involving alcohol can result in tragedy for not only the young person, but for his or her family, friends and their entire community.

Teen drinking is associated with serious negative behaviors and outcomes, including motor vehicle crashes, sexual assault, alcohol poisoning, drowning, falls and suicide. Simply taking away the keys is not enough.

An important part of our responsibility as leaders in the community and as parents is to set limits that help ensure teens' safety, and proms and graduation are no exception. Furnishing alcohol to minors is against the law and could have civil ramifications as well.

Please join me and your local school and police department in promoting a safe and sober prom and graduation season so that all young people enjoy this exciting time of their lives safely. *Please visit www.mass.gov/essexda for more information.*

