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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Local Communities Awarded Fire Education Grants**

**Boston, MA** – Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer) is pleased to announce that the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security has awarded grants to fund the Student Awareness Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) Program for Massachusetts towns and cities for the fiscal year 2016. Nineteen communities in Senator Gobi's district received awards:

| <b>Department</b>               | <b>S.A.F.E. Program</b> | <b>Senior S.A.F.E. Program</b> |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Ashburnham Fire Department      | \$4,237                 | \$2,716                        |
| Athol Fire Department           | \$4,237                 | \$2,716                        |
| Brimfield Fire Department       | \$3,337                 | Did not apply                  |
| Brookfield Fire Department      | \$3,337                 | \$2,417                        |
| Charlton Fire Department        | \$4,237                 | \$2,716                        |
| Holland Fire Department         | \$3,337                 | \$2,417                        |
| Hubbardston Fire Department     | \$3,337                 | \$2,417                        |
| Monson Fire Department          | \$4,237                 | \$2,716                        |
| Palmer Fire Department          | \$2,347                 | \$1,745                        |
| Paxton Fire Department          | \$3,337                 | \$2,417                        |
| Phillipston Fire Department     | \$3,337                 | \$2,417                        |
| Rutland Fire Department         | \$4,237                 | \$2,716                        |
| Spencer Fire Department         | \$4,237                 | Did not apply                  |
| Sturbridge Fire Department      | \$4,237                 | \$2,716                        |
| Templeton Fire Department       | \$4,237                 | \$2,716                        |
| Three Rivers Fire Department    | \$1,822                 | \$1,487                        |
| Ware Fire Department            | \$4,237                 | \$2,716                        |
| Warren Fire Department          | \$4,237                 | Did not apply                  |
| West Brookfield Fire Department | \$3,337                 | \$2,417                        |

"Our firefighters provide so many invaluable services and the SAFE grants enable them to educate children and provide another layer of safety to them and their families," said Sen. Anne Gobi.

S.A.F.E. is an example of the many successful and valuable programs that the Legislature and the Governor support on behalf of the citizens of the Commonwealth. According to the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services, this program, combined with other fire education and prevention initiatives, has led to a 70% decrease in child fire deaths, from an average of 18 per year to 5 per year.

The senior S.A.F.E. grant program was established after the success of the initial S.A.F.E. program. It offers funds to local communities in support of senior fire prevention training. Seniors are the most vulnerable of populations at risk of fire related deaths.

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