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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Montachusett Veteran Outreach Center Receives \$35,000 Grant**

(BOSTON) – **Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer)** and **Rep. Jonathan Zlotnik (D-Gardner)** are pleased to announce that the Montachusett Veterans Outreach Center (MVOC) in Gardner has been awarded a \$35,000 grant to support legal aid for military veterans.

The organization will use the funds to expand its current level of services for veterans including enhancing its outreach efforts to connect with veterans with legal aid organizations. The funding will allow MVOC to provide legal representation to 44 veterans.

“Congratulations to the Montachusett Veterans Outreach Center on being awarded these funds,” said Senator Gobi. “There is always more work we can do to help our veterans. MVOC provides a variety of support services and these funds will allow them to expand their reach.”

"The work the MVOC does to support veterans in our community is first class, and this grant will let them deepen the scope of their incredible work," said Rep. Zlotnik "I'm very pleased to see these funds awarded to such a deserving organization; congratulations."

MVOC mission is to “[provide] support to military veterans and their families in need of services to develop a resilient, self-sufficient lifestyle essential to succeed in today’s environment.” Since 1988, the Center has provided veterans with alternative low-income housing solutions, mental health counseling, employment training, medical transportation and so much more. MVOC is an important part of the community and has been achieving incredible progress and work for our veterans.

The Legal Assistance for Our Veterans grant is designed to fund legal aid groups, legal clinics, or nonprofit organizations who will focus on helping Massachusetts veterans, including those with a less than honorable discharge status, gain access to veterans’ services, including, but not

limited to: discharge status upgrades, health benefits through the Department of Veterans Affairs (“VA”) healthcare system, housing & education assistance, general legal representation, and veteran-specific employment. The grant program utilizes funds received by the Attorney General’s Office from a settlement with Sprint and Verizon. Special consideration was given to applicants who can prove that the grant will be used to serve underrepresented veterans, including women, minorities, and LGBTQ veterans.

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