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PRESS RELEASE

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Gobi and Whipps Announce Grant Aimed at Improving Employment Preparedness for Individuals with Disabilities

BOSTON- **Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer)** was proud to join **Representative Susannah Whipps (I-Athol)** and the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development (EOLWD) today in announcing that the Polus Center for Social & Economic Development has been awarded a \$67,500 grant through the FY19 Employment Program for Young Adults with Disabilities. Located in Petersham, Massachusetts, the Polus Center has more than 35 years of experience designing human service programs and promoting new opportunities for persons with disabilities and victims of conflict in the United States and throughout the world. Today, their primary work in Massachusetts is to help people with disabilities gain the skills, credentials, career-support and work opportunities to help them find competitive employment.

"The Polus Center has made such a positive impact locally and globally," commented Senator Gobi. "This funding will help to bring services to more people who are such important members of our communities and I encourage people to support the work of the Center."

Representative Whipps had this to say: "I am pleased to work with Senator Gobi to advocate for public/private partnerships such as this which increase opportunity and strengthen our workforce, both locally and globally."

The Employment Program for Young Adults with Disabilities works to prepare these individuals for employment by providing occupational skills, coaching, and pre/post placement support. In partnership with UMass Memorial Hospital, the MassHire North Central Career Center, the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission and CVS, the Polus Center will use these funds to

serve 12 young adults with disabilities through an enhanced 8-week Pharmacy Tech training program. The program will include work readiness, pharmacy protocol and customer service training.

To learn more about the employment program, please contact Jessica Muradian, EOLWD Deputy Chief of Staff and Director of Legislative Affairs and Policy at Jessica.Muradian@Mss.gov.

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