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PRESS RELEASE

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SEN. GOBI URGES APPOINTED TO SPECIAL SENATE COMMITTEE ON OPIOID ADDICTION

BOSTON – Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer) has been appointed by Senate President Stan Rosenberg to the Special Senate Committee on Opioid Addiction Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Options. The Senate adopted the order this morning establishing the ten member special committee and the President made his appointments following.

Opioid overdose is one of the leading causes of death in Massachusetts, where we have seen a sharp increase in the number of overdoses. There were 363 opioid-related deaths in the year 2000 in Massachusetts. That number ballooned to 642 in 2011 and 860 in 2013, according to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

“The opioid addiction affects each and every one of my communities. I have personally seen the devastation caused to families,” said Sen. Gobi. “I appreciate being appointed to this extremely important committee and I look forward to working on feasible solutions to this horrible epidemic.”

The purpose of the special committee will be to review existing state statutes and funding, as well as the implementation and enforcement of recently enacted substance abuse legislation, and make recommendations to further strengthen opioid abuse prevention, intervention, and treatment and recovery options. The committee will file its report with recommendations to the Senate Clerk.

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