

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Senator Gobi Engages With Millennials at Anna Maria College**

PAXTON – **State Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer)** visited Anna Maria College today to meet with students as part of the Senate’s Millennial Engagement Initiative. She was joined by **Rep. Kimberly N. Ferguson (R-Rutland)**.

The Millennial Engagement Initiative, chaired by Senator Eric Lesser and Senator Ryan Fattman, was announced in February by Senate President Stan Rosenberg. The initiative aims to encourage more millennials (defined as individuals between the ages of 16 and 35) to become involved in politics and government, and to gain their input in the legislative process.

“It was a wonderful experience to be at Anna Maria College to have an opportunity to speak with the students as part of the Senate’s Millennial Engagement Initiative,” said Senator Gobi. “The students have concerns about their job future and the college debt that they are faced with. They also showed concern for a number of social issues, including the rise in mental health issues and what the state can do to address that growing population.”

“I always enjoy getting out to talk to our students to get their unique perspective and input,” said Representative Ferguson. “These types of dialogues are critical in order to engage young people in the political process and ensure that we as legislators understand the issues that are important to them.”

Discussion topics included higher education, workforce training, the opioid epidemic, social media privacy and mental health issues, among others.

According to an October 2014 study by the White House Council of Economic Advisers, millennials accounted for over one-third of the U.S. population in 2013 and are the most diverse generation in the post-World War II era. In addition, 61 percent of millennials have attended college and rely more heavily on student loans than previous generations.

Anna Maria College is a private, co-educational institution located in Paxton, MA. Founded in 1946 by the Sisters of Saint Anne, it has an annual enrollment of about 1,500 students.

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