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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Senator Anne Gobi Restores Funding for Regional School Transportation in FY16 Budget with Unanimous Vote**

**BOSTON** – State Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer) led off Wednesday’s Massachusetts Senate budget debate by securing an additional \$2,500,000 in funding for Regional school transportation in the Commonwealth. In her maiden speech as a state senator, Gobi successfully advocated for the amendment and received a congratulatory round of applause from her colleagues and a unanimous vote in support of the funding.

“In Massachusetts, there are 85 regional school districts. I represent 11 of them,” said Sen. Gobi as she addressed the members. “There originally was a promise they would be 100 percent funded. Do you know how many times that has been done? None. We have a chance in this budget to right a wrong by adding \$2.5 million to the budget.”

Regional school transportation funding in the FY15 budget was cut dramatically by Governor Patrick’s 9C cuts earlier this year. Passage of Sen. Gobi’s amendment will result in the program receiving 73 percent of the full funding from the state budget.

Sen. Gobi worked with the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools to advocate for the funding. “I want to thank Senator Gobi for her efforts in providing regional school transportation funding,” said Stephen Hemman, Executive Director of Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools. “This is a very important resource for regional schools so that we can provide students with safe transportation. We appreciate her efforts in securing a unanimous vote for the increase.”

Gobi has long advocated for regional school transportation, which is essential to the district. She brings fourteen years of budget experience in the Massachusetts House of Representatives to her first budget debate as State Senator of the Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex District.

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