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PRESS RELEASE

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Senator Anne Gobi Advocates for Regional School Transportation Reimbursements

BOSTON – **Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer)** has announced a unanimous vote by the Massachusetts Senate to increase regional school transportation reimbursement funding during Tuesday’s budget debate. The amendment, filed by Senator Gobi, raises the reimbursement rate to 72 percent of full funding, at a total of \$62,271,000, a \$1.25 million increase over FY17 funding.

“I appreciate the unanimous support I received from my Senate colleagues for this amendment,” said Senator Gobi. “They understand how critical funding is for our regional school districts and how it helps the overall school budgets.”

Regional school districts often have higher student transportation costs since they cover larger geographic regions. There are currently 58 regional school districts in Massachusetts with 171 member schools. The transportation money that is not reimbursed by the state comes directly out of their school budgets. Senator Gobi has advocated each year for an increase in funding with a goal of 100% reimbursement.

The House of Representatives approved \$62,021,000 and the two amounts will be negotiated by the conference committee.

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