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GOBI PASSES AMENDMENT INCREASING FUNDING FOR MASSACHUSETTS COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

BOSTON – On Tuesday, May 24th, **Senator Anne Gobi (D-Spencer)**, Senate Chair of the Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators, successfully rallied her colleagues to pass an amendment to the Senate budget increasing funding for the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women (MCSW).

“The Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women have been incredible advocates for womens’ rights in Massachusetts,” said Senator Gobi. “I was proud to be able to secure this funding and I look forward to continuing to work with them in my position as Chair of the Caucus of Women Legislators.”

“As Senate Vice-Chair of the Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators, I was proud to work with Chairwoman Anne Gobi to increase funding for the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women,” said **Senator Linda Dorcea Forry (D-Dorchester)**. “Over the last eleven years, I have served as a member of the Caucus, working on issues that impact families in our state from healthcare, to housing to economic opportunity. Increased funding for the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women will continue to ensure access to equality and opportunity.”

“We applaud Senator Gobi and her colleagues for this critical investment that will benefit all citizens of Massachusetts as equality for women supports families, communities, and our Commonwealth,” said Victoria Budson, Commissioner of the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women.

The MCSW is a state-established body charged with reviewing the status of women in Massachusetts and offering recommendations regarding policy that would improve access to opportunities and equality. The Commission is composed of 19 volunteer commissioners who are appointed by one of four appointing

authorities: the Governor, the Senate President, the Speaker of the House and the Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators.

In addition to policy advocacy, the MCSW hosts several annual events, including Unsung Heroine where women across the Commonwealth are honored at the State House for their community work, Advocacy Day and four public hearings held around the state where they receive testimony on the issues that women and girls face. The MCSW also collaborates with the six regional and county commissions on the status of women and provides resources and support to them.

Over the past few years, the work of the MCSW has greatly increased but their budget allocation has not. Senator Gobi's amendment will increase their budget line item to \$130,000 from the originally proposed \$116,000. This funding increase will help the MCSW do additional outreach, perform more research and provide more support to the regional commissions.

The Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators supported the creation of the MCSW and they have been partners in government ever since. The Caucus and the MCSW collaborate on many events throughout the year and are in constant communication about women's issues.

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