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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Senator Anne Gobi Restores Funding for Regional School Transportation Reimbursements During FY17 Budget Debate**

**BOSTON – Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer)** has announced a unanimous vote by the Massachusetts Senate to increase regional school transportation reimbursement funding by \$2,000,000 during Tuesday’s budget debate. The amendment, filed by Senator Gobi, raises the reimbursement rate to 73 percent of full funding, at a total of \$61,021,000.

“I appreciate the support of my Senate colleagues to increase funding that assists all 58 regional school districts and 171 communities,” said Senator Gobi. “This eases the burden on local budgets, but there is more room for work.”

Regional school districts often have higher student transportation costs since they cover larger geographic regions. There are currently 55 regional school districts in Massachusetts with 165 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.

“I want to thank Senator Gobi for her leadership to increase the funding for regional school transportation reimbursement,” said **Perry Davis, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools (MARS)**. “The Senate funding level will maintain reimbursement at 73 percent for FY17. MARS continues to advocate for funding regional transportation reimbursement at 100 percent, as stated in MGL chapter 71, Section 16C.”

The House of Representatives approved \$60,021,000 and the two amounts will be negotiated by the conference committee.

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