

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
**MASSACHUSETTS SENATE**  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Gobi, Senate Approve Amendment for Veteran to Veteran Mediation Services**

BOSTON – **Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer)** has announced that the Massachusetts State Senate voted to approve funding for a Veterans Mediation Training Program administered by Quabbin Mediation. The \$100,000 in funding was filed as an amendment to the Senate budget by Senator Gobi.

The Veteran Mediation program provides services to prevent and alleviate veteran homelessness in the Commonwealth, along with the numerous accompanying issues. They host statewide trainings to equip veterans with the skills to help their fellow veterans with these challenges.

“This program has been incredibly successful,” said Senator Gobi. “Veterans understand other veterans and the issues they face better than anyone. Providing the highest level of assistance at no cost is a great benefit that they certainly deserve.”

This funding will help to equip over 200 veterans who serve veterans with mediation skills through 35-hour professional trainings and 6-hour skills trainings. These skills will be used to provide mediation services in more than 10,000 cases involving veterans and family members, helping them to find solutions to conflicts concerning such issues as housing, family relationships, employment, health care, and more.

For FY19, there will be a strategic shift to elevate the program to a new level where mediation services provided by veterans are more widely available throughout the Commonwealth to veterans, Guard, Reserves, active military and their families. In this fiscal year the groundwork will be laid for a network of Veterans Mediation sites statewide, institutionalizing the program at community colleges and through long standing agencies and institutions. The four-year plan will begin through activities including the establishment of 5 satellite Veterans Mediation sites and creating a system for development, outreach and support of these sites and for future site development.

Senator Gobi, the daughter of a Navy Veteran, serves as Senate Vice-Chair of the Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs. She was successful in securing the initial amount of funding for this program in the Massachusetts HOME Act, passed in 2016.

If you have any questions, contact Senator Gobi's office at 617-722-1540.

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