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PRESS RELEASE

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Senator Gobi Announces Head Start Supplemental Grant Awards

BOSTON- Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer) was proud to join the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) today in announcing a series of Head State Supplemental Grant Awards for the Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20). The Massachusetts Head Start State Supplemental Grant program supports quality enhancements in Head Start programs, including salary and benefits; the hiring of additional staff to provide lower child/staff ratios; professional development opportunities; and funding for grantees to meet their 20% Federal Head Start matching requirements.

“I am proud to support the work of the EEC and honored to advocate for funding these important grant programs,” remarked Senator Gobi. “Like many programs, Head Start faces several challenges to obtain and retain qualified educators, and this funding is a positive step towards addressing the issue and making sure that we are investing in our children’s future.”

The following programs servicing constituents in Senator Gobi’s district will be eligible for funds:

- Montachusett Opportunity Council, Inc. servicing those living in Hubbardston, Ashburnham, Ashby, Templeton and Winchendon is eligible to receive \$299,996.
- Worcester Community Action Council, Inc. servicing those in Spencer and East Brookfield is eligible to receive \$110,744.

There are 29 Head Start and Early Head Start agencies serving more than 15,000 children across Massachusetts. The programs serve children from birth to age five and provide critical services such as early education and care, physical and mental health, nutritional services, and

comprehensive family support and parent education. Head Starts works, in a study which compared Head Start attendees to other early education programs it found Head Start children scored better in all measured domains of cognitive and social-emotional development.

These grants are for a one-year period, and the award amounts are subject to appropriation in the FY20 State Budget. More information about the program may be found online, or by contacting Kathleen Hart at (617) 988-7819.

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