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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**Senator Gobi Named to Oversight Committee Charged with Studying COVID Outbreak at Holyoke Soldiers Home**

**BOSTON- Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer)** has been named to the joint oversight committee charged with investigating and studying the coronavirus outbreak at the Holyoke Soldiers' Home that resulted in the death of 76 residents this spring.

Senator Gobi is a former vice chair on the joint committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs, and currently services as vice chair on the joint committee on Public Service- in addition to her work as Senate Chair on the joint committee on Higher Education, and the joint committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture. She had this to say on being named to the committee: "The loss of Veterans to COVID 19 and the horrendous toll it has taken on their families is worthy of deeper investigation add to that the allegations of improper care and questionable medical decisions and you have the necessity of this commission. I am honored to serve on the commission in memory of our lost Veterans."

Between March 21<sup>st</sup> and early June, the outbreak infected more than 71% of the 210 veterans living at the home. The 17-member committee is tasked with conducting a comprehensive review of the situation, including, but not limited to:

1. A review of the structure, leadership, and staffing levels at the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke;
2. A review of the quality of medical care provided at the Home;
3. A review of the preparedness and ability of the leadership and staff at the home to respond to COVID-19 prior to the outbreak;
4. A review of all communications by the leadership and staff relative to the outbreak;
5. A review of the results of any state and federal investigation into the mismanagement and the resulting infections and deaths of both veterans and Staff at the Home;

The committee is tasked with filing its report on the results of the investigation and study, as well as and legislative recommendations by March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

For more information on the committee, please contact Senator Gobi's office by email at [Anne.Gobi@MASenate.gov](mailto:Anne.Gobi@MASenate.gov).

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