



**Office of
Representative Hannah E. Kane
Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

For Immediate Release

Contact: Erin Ryan, 617-722-2430, Erin.Ryan@mahouse.gov

January 14, 2016

Representative Kane Announces Fire Education Grants for Shrewsbury and Westborough

BOSTON- State Fire Marshal Stephen Coan and the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, in conjunction with the Baker-Polito Administration, have announced Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) and Senior S.A.F.E. grant awards for the towns of Shrewsbury and Westborough.

“The grants awarded to communities through the S.A.F.E. program provide the funds necessary to teach our youngest citizens how to react in the case of a fire emergency and these lessons have directly translated in to children saving the lives of loved ones,” said Representative Hannah Kane (R-Shrewsbury). “It is great that the Administration and Legislature continue to recognize the importance of funding these effective programs and I am pleased that both Shrewsbury and Westborough will receive funds to maintain these life-saving programs.”

Since its creation 21 years ago, the S.A.F.E program has reduced the average annual child fire deaths by 70% through educational programs that help children identify the dangers of fire and fire hazards, and how to appropriately respond in an emergency situation. More recently, funds to establish the Senior S.A.F.E. program have been awarded to provide platforms to educate senior citizens on general home safety, and fire prevention and preparedness.

"Having received this funding has enabled our department to work with parts of our community that can be vulnerable to fire related injuries. We will continue to educate school age children and older adults in an effort to keep Westborough residents safe. We are very thankful to be awarded this grant," stated Westborough Fire Chief Patrick Purcell.

Shrewsbury Fire Chief Jim Vuona commented, "I'd like to thank all of our elected and appointed officials throughout the State for their continued funding of the S.A.F.E. (Student/Senior Awareness of Fire Education) Program in Massachusetts. This is a vitally important program that helps Fire Departments reach out and remind their communities of the importance of fire safety and fire prevention. The S.A.F.E. Program has proven to be one the most effective and cost efficient ways to manage the risk of uncontrolled fires and reduce fire deaths in Massachusetts. The Shrewsbury Fire Department appreciates your effort and unwavering support!"

The town of Westborough will receive \$4,837.00 through the S.A.F.E. grant and \$2,917.00 from the Senior S.A.F.E grant. The town of Shrewsbury was awarded \$5,937.00 and \$3,115.00 for the S.A.F.E. program and Senior S.A.F.E. program, respectively.

###