



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

For Immediate Release

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**Jody Hensley of Westborough named a 2018
Unsung Heroine**

*Nominated by Representative Kane, Hensley honored by the
Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women*

Jody Hensley of Westborough was honored as a member of the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women's 2018 class of Unsung Heroines. State Representative Hannah Kane, (R-11th Worcester District), recommended Mrs. Hensley for this recognition because of her distinguished history of municipal service and continued volunteer efforts to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of the Commonwealth's residents. Mrs. Hensley was honored with 130 other Unsung Heroines for her outstanding contributions to her community in a ceremony on Wednesday, June 20, 2018 in the Great Hall of the Massachusetts State House.

Jody Hensley's community involvement and civic engagement in Westborough spans decades. Jody currently serves on Westborough's Advisory Finance Committee and previously served on the Westborough School Committee. Additionally, Jody has actively participated in several volunteer organizations, such as the Housing Partnership, Fine Arts Education Association and numerous school parent groups. While impressive, Jody's most significant contribution is arguably her devotion of countless hours, resources and immeasurable energy to fiercely lead the charge to reduce recreational marijuana use across Massachusetts and inspiring many to join her. Jody had also played a pivotal role in engaging and educating the Westborough community about the 2016 Ballot Question 4, gathered a broad array of stakeholders to relentlessly champion policies designed to protect and empower local communities and their residents, and made history by successfully advocating for Westborough to become the first municipality in the Commonwealth to "opt out" of allowing recreational marijuana establishments.

“It was my privilege to nominate Jody Hensley as a Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women 2018 Unsung Heroine,” stated Representative Kane. “Jody embodies what it means to be an “Unsung Heroine” and continues to tenaciously and bravely advocate for the safety, wellbeing and success of Massachusetts communities, residents, and mostly importantly, youth. Jody’s volunteer service in the town of Westborough and the Commonwealth will most certainly have a long lasting and meaningful impact.”

"I'm honored and humbled to receive this award in the company of 130 women who have made diverse contributions to make their community, and the world, a better place," stated Unsung Heroine Jody Hensley. “In truth, it requires countless unsung heroines and heroes in every community every day to tackle the challenge of addiction prevention, and to maintain protective community environmental factors for the healthy growth and development of our youth."

The Unsung Heroines are women who don't make the news, but make the difference. They are the women who use their time, talent and enthusiasm to enrich the lives of others and make a difference in their neighborhoods, cities and towns. They are mentors, volunteers and innovators who do what needs to be done without expectations of recognition or gratitude. These women are the glue that keeps a community together and every community is better because of their contribution.

The ceremony included a program emceed by MCSW Chair Margot Parrot, acknowledging each of the 2018 Unsung Heroines, along with remarks from Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito, Speaker of the House Robert A. DeLeo, Senate President Harriette L. Chandler and Representative Colleen M. Garry, Co-Chair of the Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators. The ceremony was followed by a group photograph and a “Just Desserts” reception.

The Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women is an independent state agency that was legislatively created in 1998 to advance women of the Commonwealth to full equality in all areas of life and to promote their rights and opportunities. The MCSW provides a permanent, effective voice for the women of Massachusetts.

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