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**MOORE ANNOUNCES RESTORATION OF FUNDING FOR REGIONAL SCHOOL
TRANSPORTATION**

Boston – Senator Michael O. Moore (D-Millbury) today announced that Governor Patrick has fulfilled his promise to restore cuts he made three months ago to regional school transportation. Last week the Governor had announced his intention to come up with a plan to restore the funds; yesterday it was announced he had followed through and restored the full \$18 million.

“This is very good news for regional school districts, who have been forced to cope with both the loss of transportation funding, as well as cuts to academic programs as a result of state and local fiscal crises,” said Sen. Moore. “Restoring this funding lifts some of the burden from these districts, and in doing so helps to stave off additional budgetary hardships at the local level.”

63 members of the General Court signed a letter addressed to Governor Patrick, asking him to reconsider his 9C cut to Regional School Transportation Reimbursement. The account was cut nearly 50% by the Governor and represented a 63% reduction in regional school district aid since Fiscal Year 2009.

The bi-partisan group of legislators said at the time that since regional schools are required by law to provide transportation, must travel greater distances than municipal school districts, and cannot go back to member towns for additional funds after the cut (the way municipal districts can), this cut represented a significant cut in local aid to regional school districts.

The Patrick Administration was able to fill the cut after recent revenue estimates came in above projected benchmarks. Since October 15th, the state has collected \$181 million more than expected, allowing the Governor to restore the cut he had made.

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