

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 20, 2019

Contact: Maddie Ribble, Massachusetts Public Health Association
617-697-2107; mribble@mapublichealth.org

MPHA Presents Legislative Leadership Awards to Representatives Garlick and Kane
Work to promote an effective, efficient, and equitable local health system cited

Boston, MA – Today, the Massachusetts Public Health Association (MPHA) presented Representative Denise Garlick and Representative Hannah Kane with Legislative Leadership Awards in recognition of their commitment to building an effective, efficient, and equitable local public health system.

In presenting the awards, MPHA Executive Director Carlene Pavlos cited Representative Garlick’s work to advance knowledge, develop recommendations, and champion legislative action to strengthen the Commonwealth’s municipal public health system. She also praised Representative Kane’s work to advance knowledge, develop recommendations, and champion legislative action to strengthen the Commonwealth’s municipal public health system.

“Representative Garlick has been a longtime and committed champion of strong public health,” said MPHA Executive Director Carlene Pavlos. “From her experience as a nurse and chair of the Needham Health Department, Representative Garlick knows firsthand the critical importance of municipal public health services in protecting the health of all Massachusetts residents, as well as the challenges facing local health departments. Over the last five years, she has turned this knowledge into action, working hard to promote a stronger and more equitable local health system that can effectively serve every resident of Commonwealth.”

“Representative Kane has been a stalwart advocate for public health,” continued Pavlos. “We are grateful for her thoughtfulness, seriousness of purpose, and tremendous partnership. She has brought greater attention to the challenges facing our local health system, and more importantly, she has rolled up her sleeves and done the hard work to move legislation that will make a real difference in the lives of Massachusetts residents.”

Representative Garlick was the lead sponsor of legislation passed in 2016 to establish the Special Commission on Local and Regional Health to bring greater attention to challenges and develop consensus on effective solutions among state agencies, municipal leaders, local health leaders, legislators, health care providers, and others. Subsequent to the release of the Commission’s final report in 2019, Representative Garlick has been a lead sponsor and champion for the State Action for Public Health Excellence Act – or SAPHE Act (House Bill 1935). Her leadership on this legislation has resulted, in just 11 months, in the appropriation of \$500,000 in the state budget to support local health departments to share services across municipal boundaries and

movement of the SAPHE Act through the Joint Committee on Public Health and the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing.

Representative Kane served on the Special Commission on Local and Regional Health, which was established by the Legislature in 2016 to bring greater attention to challenges and develop consensus on effective solutions among state agencies, municipal leaders, local health leaders, legislators, health care providers, and others. Subsequent to the release of the Commission's final report in 2019, Representative Kane has been a lead sponsor and champion for the State Action for Public Health Excellence Act – or SAPHE Act (House Bill 1935). Her leadership on this legislation has resulted, in just 11 months, in the appropriation of \$500,000 in the state budget to support local health departments to share services across municipal boundaries and movement of the SAPHE Act through the Joint Committee on Public Health and the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing.

###

Massachusetts Public Health Association

The Massachusetts Public Health Association (MPHA) is a non-profit, statewide organization focused on eliminating health inequities and creating healthy communities through advocacy, community organizing, and coalition-building.