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Contact: Anna Darrow, 617-722-2810, Anna.Darrow@mahouse.gov

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Rep. Golden & Rep. Kane announce Massachusetts Legislative Caucus on Cancer Awareness

BOSTON – State Representative Tom Golden (D-Lowell) and State Representative Hannah Kane (R-Shrewsbury) announced today that a bipartisan group of members of the Massachusetts House of Representatives have joined together to establish the Massachusetts Legislative Caucus on Cancer Awareness.

Co-chaired by Representative Golden and Representative Kane, the caucus is designed to serve as a forum for state lawmakers to learn about topics spanning the cancer continuum, including updated information on prevention, advances in treatment, research and development, barriers to care and clinical trials, quality of life, survivorship, and more.

“So many of our constituents, friends, and family members have been impacted by cancer. We believe it is important to create a forum for our colleagues to share information about cancer-related issues,” said Representative Golden. “As we know too well, COVID-19 has exacerbated barriers to healthcare and a cancer diagnosis creates its own unique challenges for patients during their treatment journey.”

Caucus members will engage in conversation guided by members’ interests and informed by health care experts. The goal is to provide legislators with the knowledge they need to support policies that will provide the best possible outcomes for their constituents who have been touched by cancer.

“The Caucus presents an opportunity for the House of Representatives to continue our commitment to putting patients first,” said Representative Kane. I am proud that we continue to lead as a state on key health care issues, advancing just last session the creation of a rare disease advisory council and increased access to clinical trials. A dedicated caucus on cancer issues will be a tremendous resource as we develop healthcare policy in a post-COVID-19 environment.”

As envisioned, this caucus will be open to all members of the Legislature and supported by a broad coalition of oncology-focused stakeholders, including physician and patient groups,

academics, survivors, and caregivers. The official papers have been filed with the House Committee on Rules and an invitation for member participation has been circulated.

A dozen states have established cancer caucuses or are in the process of doing so.

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