

The Commonwealth of Massachus::tts House of Representatives Itato House, Boston 02133-1054

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REPRESENTATIVE **1ST HAMPDEN DISTRICT**

TODD M. SMOLA

BRIMFIELD • HOLLAND • PALMER STURBRIDGE • WALES • WARE • WARREN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE May 2, 2019

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Rep. Smola Announces Grant for Pathfinder High School

BOSTON - Representative Todd M. Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways & Means) is pleased to announce that Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School has been selected to receive a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Pathfinder is one of 123 public school districts and 11 non-public schools across the Commonwealth to receive funding to support comprehensive school health services. Grants will be used to provide mental and physical health services aimed at improving student attendance and boosting their academic achievement. Pathfinder will receive \$3,000 through the program.

The funding will be used for a variety of programs intended to support:

- District-level leadership committed to promoting a comprehensive school health • program;
- Case management, including active and engaged partnerships with healthcare providers in the community that address student chronic health conditions;
- Education and prevention services to address substance use and other chronic disease prevention within the greater community using trauma- and resilienceinformed approaches;
- Development of high-quality programs that promote equity, address disparities in • student populations, improve access to services in the community, and support higher graduation rates for all students.

"This program will be a great resource for our local students and staff," said Representative Smola. "Having these types of services available during the school day helps students remain in school."

The four-year grants are funded by the state and were awarded through a competitive bidding process. For additional information please contact Representative Smola at Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov or (617)722-2100.