



Representative Mary Ann Shallcross Smith

District 46, Lincoln & Pawtucket

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Lincoln, Rhode Island – October 6, 2010

STATE HOUSE – Representative Mary Ann Shallcross Smith, write-in candidate for re-election, district 46, Lincoln and Pawtucket praised State Education Commissioner Deborah Gist and her team for winning a \$75 million grant in the federal Race to the Top competition.

The historic program rewards states for making ambitious changes to improve struggling schools, closing the achievement gap and boosting graduation rates. Also included is more teacher training and development of a new teacher evaluation system.

“Ms. Gist presented an exceptional plan and I was proud to have supported it in the General Assembly when I helped pass several key initiatives which were included in the state’s winning application: establishment of a statewide school funding formula for public education and lifting the cap on the number of charter schools that were previously allowed,” Shallcross Smith said.

“It was unfortunate that the National Education Association (NEA), the teacher union that recruited and finances my opponent O’Grady, nearly derailed the grant with their strong opposition. O’Grady’s wife is an NEA member, a fact he has not shared with voters,” she noted.

“As an educator and child care professional for 38 years I have always put children first and will continue to do so,” said Shallcross Smith.

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