



# Hubbardston Veteran Service Officer Attends Unveiling of HERO Act, Major Veterans Legislation

**Hubbardston, MA** - Lauren Wright, Hubbardston's Veteran Service Officer, attended the unveiling of the new HERO Act, the largest and most comprehensive piece of veteran's legislation seen in Massachusetts in 20 years. Governor Maura Healey, Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll and Secretary of Veterans' Services Jon Santiago joined local officials, veterans and advocates to announce "An Act Honoring, Empowering and Recognizing Our Servicemembers and Veterans (HERO Act)" in Braintree on November 9, 2023.

The HERO Act proposes 17 spending and policy initiatives, tax credits, and statute changes to increase benefits, promote inclusivity, and modernize services for Massachusetts veterans. One of the key provisions is increasing cash bonuses for disabled veterans and Gold Star families. The act also expands veteran healthcare and prosthetic coverage. Additionally, it creates tax breaks for veteran-owned businesses and establishes a woman veteran coordinator position. The HERO Act requires public colleges to have veteran resource centers. It also updates definitions and language to be more inclusive of women, LGBTQ+, and minority veterans.

"I was honored to attend the unveiling of this groundbreaking legislation and hear directly from our state leaders about their commitments to supporting veterans of all backgrounds," said Wright. "The HERO Act will make meaningful improvements to veterans' lives by increasing access to benefits, healthcare, housing, education and employment. I look forward to helping Hubbardston veterans take full advantage of the new opportunities this act will provide."

Wright thanked Governor Healey, Lt. Governor Driscoll, Secretary Santiago and the entire legislative delegation for their leadership on behalf of Massachusetts veterans. Hubbardston veterans in need of assistance connecting to state and federal benefits can contact Wright at 508-735-5264 or [vet@hubbardstonma.us](mailto:vet@hubbardstonma.us).

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