



PETER SCHLECK
DIRECTOR

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

OFFICE OF PROGRAM EVALUATION AND
GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

January 31, 2024

Director Bobbi Johnson
Office of Child and Family Services
2 Anthony Avenue
Augusta, Maine 04330

Dear Director Johnson,

Thank you for the information in reply to my letter sent on behalf of the Government Oversight Committee on December 15, 2023. At the meeting of the Committee on January 26, 2024, Senator Hickman asked that I follow up with you to request additional information referenced by Senator Timberlake towards the end of that meeting. For your ease of reference, the relevant discussion may be found at the following link starting at approximately the 12:15:55 mark:

<https://legislature.maine.gov/audio/#220?event=90052&startDate=2024-01-26T09:30:00-05:00>

To summarize (but I refer you to the recording if in doubt as to what was conveyed), a further breakdown on the hospital stays and hoteling, including how long the average stay was. The Committee Members are hearing stories, getting calls of children being in such situations two weeks, two months, or even up to six months—further insight and information is sought on the veracity of that, and then, what is the status of payments to hospitals, and what are the true costs of hoteling and emergency room stays—what is actually being expended on such activities by the agency.

I am happy to discuss this request further with you or your staff if there are any questions.

We would appreciate receiving this additional information as soon as possible.

Thank you, again, kindly.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Schleck".

Peter Schleck

cc: Molly Bogart