



Senator Bill Diamond
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June 30, 2021

Via email

Nathan L. Libby, Senate Chair
Genevieve McDonald, House Chair
Government Oversight Committee

Re: OCFS

Dear Senator Libby and Representative McDonald,

I am writing to formally request that the Government Oversight Committee conduct a thorough review and investigation into the policies and practices of the Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS) within the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

The ongoing concerns articulated by the Maine Child Welfare Services Ombudsman, in conjunction with the recent deaths of three Maine children at the hands of their parents, is the impetus for this request. Maine has seen the repeated deaths of children at the hands of their caretakers despite OCFS involvement, and these three cases are only the most recent examples.

I specifically request that OPEGA investigate what steps OCFS takes to evaluate and ensure a child's safety in their home, and what steps have been taken to rectify the systemic shortcomings in this area as identified by the Ombudsman. Ongoing reform efforts, public pressure and legislative efforts undertaken by myself and others has clearly proven insufficient, and Maine children continue to be at risk.

I would be happy to discuss this request further, and I can be contacted any time at (207) 650-4713 or diamondhollyd@aol.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Diamond".

Senator Bill Diamond

cc: Lucia Nixon, OPEGA Director; lucia.nixon@legislature.maine.gov