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March 20, 2026

Senator Ingwersen, Chair  
Representative Meyer, Chair  
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Re: LD 1421 – *An Act to Clarify Parental Notifications Regarding Child Care Facility Investigations*

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services:

Thank you for your letter following up on LD 1421, *An Act to Clarify Parental Notifications Regarding Child Care Facility Investigation*. The Department appreciates your concern about the promptness of investigations into allegations of abuse and neglect in out-of-home settings. We share your desire to ensure these investigations are completed in a timely manner and recognize that a desire for timeliness must also balance the need to gather complete and comprehensive information including through interviews and record collection.

You requested information about OCFS' staffing in the Children's Licensing and Investigation Services (CLIS) unit of our Office.

- OCFS/ CLIS has seven investigators who conduct investigations at licensed child care facilities and family child providers. These staff are based out of Augusta but travel statewide to conduct investigations.
- OCFS/CLIS has one supervisor who oversees the seven investigators.

This team also conducts child abuse and neglect investigations in children's residential facilities, emergency and homeless shelters, child placing agencies, transitional living programs, public and private schools, youth camps, and youth programs under the purview of the Department of Corrections.

OCFS' new Deputy Director, Jenny Hinson, took over management of the CLIS team over the summer and she is continuing to assess the program and the standard operating procedures to find areas for improvement. She is also closely monitoring the workload for CLIS to ensure timely completion of investigations and other licensing activities. Deputy Director Hinson has extensive experience in public service, including Child Care Licensing, and brings a new lens to identify opportunities to continue to strengthen the teams she supervises.

Please let me know if you have additional questions or would like more information.

Sincerely,

Bobbi L. Johnson, LMSW

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Director

Office of Child and Family Services

Maine Department of Health and Human Services