



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Dear Senator Hickman, Representative Mastraccio and distinguished members of the Government Oversight Committee:

I am writing to respectfully request that the committee initiate a new and separate investigation into serious allegations raised by childcare provider Betsey Grant of Hancock regarding practices within the Office of Child and Family Services under the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). I understand that this committee has in its possession a letter from Representative Russ White of Ellsworth requesting such an investigation, and I write to add my name to the list of legislators making such an appeal to the committee.

Ms. Grant made a recent request of this committee to investigate daycare payments for foster children. I understand that investigation led to significant findings, including concerns aligned with testimony Ms. Grant provided on March 10, 2023 regarding questionable billing practices tied to services for autistic foster children. Despite those findings, it remains clear that further issues have gone unresolved. Ms. Grant is now alleging that she is the victim of retaliation because of her previous allegations.

Though Ms. Grant has described many surprising allegations to me, I have yet to find an example that she has not been truthful or even exaggerated her poor experiences with DHHS. Ms. Grant accurately alleged that she wasn't paid what she was owed, amounting to tens of thousands of dollars, and I strongly believe these new allegations also warrant review.

At a time when families like mine have struggled to find childcare services in our rural communities, DHHS seems inexplicably fixated on shutting down Betsey Grant's business, one of the largest childcare providers in Hancock County.

Aside from the harm shutting down Ms. Grant's business would personally bring, the impact on working families with children in rural Hancock County would be huge. Many of those families live and work in my district. This deserves the committee's attention.

I appreciate your time and consideration. Please feel free to reach out with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nina Milliken".

Nina Milliken
State Representative