

PETER SCHLECK DIRECTOR

## MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

## OFFICE OF PROGRAM EVALUATION AND GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

Date: April 11, 2025

To: Government Oversight Committee

Seter Selleck

Peter Schleck, Director

Re: Freedom of Access Act Request from News Station for Records Concerning DHHS Payments to Foster Children in Day Care

This is to advise that I have requested an advisory opinion from the Public Access Ombudsman.

5 M.R.S.§ 200-I(2) provides in relevant part that the ombudsman shall:

. . .

From:

D. Furnish, upon request, advisory opinions regarding the interpretation of and compliance with the State's freedom of access laws to any person or public agency or official in an expeditious manner. The ombudsman may not issue an advisory opinion concerning a specific matter with respect to which a lawsuit has been filed under <u>Title 1, chapter 13</u>. Advisory opinions must be publicly available after distribution to the requestor and the parties involved.

I will share the opinion as soon as it is received, along with the results of the fact finding the Committee directed OPEGA to perform.

Thank you, kindly.