



MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0003

January 8, 2026

The Honorable Craig Hickman, Chair
The Honorable Anne-Maire Mastracchio, Chair
C/O Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability.
82 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Chair Hickman, Chair Mastracchio, and committee members:

Over the past few months, it has become more than apparent that fraud exists within MaineCare, the state's Medicaid program. Through various reporting by many media outlets, the recent news that the Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) suspended all payments to Gateway Community Services in Portland and Lewiston amid allegations of fraud is the latest development in a story that began long before.

Upon the disclosure of Gateway's alleged fraud involving interpreter services in May 2025 by a whistleblower, Christopher Bernardini, several members of the Legislature including Assistant Senate Republican Leader Matthew Harrington called for an investigation into the concern and other agencies that provide similar services. When the massive Medicaid fraud in Minnesota regarding daycare and autism services surfaced in the national media just last month, it became evident that Medicaid fraud in Maine could likely go well beyond interpreter services to other areas of MaineCare reimbursements, such as Section 21, 26, 28 and 29 services.

The procurement practices of the State of Maine involving the awarding of sole-source contracts are already beyond suspect and under scrutiny by the Government Oversight Committee. In a December letter to the Chief Executive, Sen. Harrington stated, "As has also been previously reported, the Office of the State Auditor found systemic deficiencies in the state's procurement process. In FY 2024 alone, more than \$2.1 billion in contracts were made under a system the audit described as lacking basic supervisory oversight and controls. The audit went on to find that of 31 'sole-source' (non-competitive) procurement actions reviewed, 16 lacked documentation showing that a 'reasonable investigation' had been conducted to explore alternatives, ignoring an intentional safeguard under state law."

That letter has gone unanswered. Further, the recent revelations in our last meeting by yet another whistleblower, John Morin, that interpreter fraud regarding foreign-national test takers has existed for years within the Maine Bureau of Motor Vehicles is also concerning (and may be related to Gateway). It is now time to investigate whether fraud has corroded the foundation of and now permeated Maine's entire Executive Branch.

Title 3, §991 explicitly gives the Government Oversight Committee and its investigative Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability (OPEGA) the authority to conduct an investigation of Executive Branch agencies when determined necessary by the Committee. The statute

also expands the scope of any Committee and OPEGA investigation to any agency or nonprofit that may have received public funds in the commission of fraud.

Therefore, we are asking the Government Oversight Committee to direct OPEGA to open an investigation into the Maine Department of Health Human Services and its disbursements to organizations under the above-mentioned programs. Further, we are requesting OPEGA to determine the frequency of program integrity and compliance audits DHHS has conducted and the veracity of those audits.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Jeff Timberlake
State Senator, District 17



Brad Farrin
State Senator, District 3



Stacey Guerin
State Senator, District 4