



Lisa M. Keim
Senator, District 19
Assistant Republican Leader

THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

September 15, 2023

Senator Craig Hickman, Senate Chair
Representative Jessica Fay, House Chair
Committee on Government Oversight
82 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Senator Hickman and Representative Fay,

The purpose of this letter is to request formal consideration by this Committee of recent media reports raising concerns over whether there is adequate oversight of public guardianships in Maine. See [Eight public guardianship deaths in Maine raise oversight questions \(themainemonitor.org\)](https://themainemonitor.org).

I respectfully suggest that this could initially involve the Chairs and Leads sending a letter to the Health and Human Services Committee, to understand whether there are plans there to take up any aspects of these matters. In light of the role played by individual county probate courts in Maine, the HHS Committee could also be requested to consult with the Committee on Judiciary, in order to understand any scope of interest or planned activities on their part.

With any such responses in hand, this Committee could proceed to consider whether to direct that OPEGA review this matter, including to request that OPEGA propose a scope of work following preliminary research into the process.

Areas of initial consideration I wish to highlight, include:

1. By what standards do public guardians operate, and what training or resources are provided to these individuals in performing their role?
2. What oversight mechanisms currently exist regarding public guardianships?
3. Are there any gaps in oversight, or opportunities to strengthen the relevant processes?
4. What safeguards exist to ensure the physical health and safety of individuals under public guardianship?
5. Are there any indicators of particular systemic concerns, including, for example, whether there are adequate safeguards to prevent overmedicating a person under public guardianship?

Thank you for your attention and consideration of these matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa M. Keim".

Lisa Keim
State Senator