



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION  
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## **Chad R. Perkins**

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23 Jan 25

MEMORANDUM FOR: Government Oversight Committee, 132<sup>nd</sup> Maine Legislature,  
Attn: Senator Craig D. Hickman, Senate Chair and Representative Anne-Marie  
Mastraccio, House Chair, 82 State House Station, Room 104 Cross Building, Augusta,  
Maine 04333-0082

SUBJECT: Request For Review

Senator Hickman and Representative Mastraccio,

1. I am requesting that the committee consider, under our official capacity and authority under Joint Rule, to authorize the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability to begin investigation into the following matters IAW Title 3 MRSA §991.
2. To consider the request of former Assistant Senate Republican Leader Keim and Representative Arata into the matter of election integrity as referenced in their letter, dated 21 Oct 24 (attached).
3. To investigate the actions of the leadership and staff of the Office of Cannabis Policy and the Department of Administrative and Financial Services for failing to provide reports to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs as required by statute (Title 28-B MRSA §113) and the actions of specific state employees to purposely withhold such reports for the purpose of shaping public policy or denying information to a legislative committee.
4. To begin an investigation into the administration of the Low Income Heating Assistance Program by the Maine Housing Authority to include, but not limited to:
  - the apparent untimely scheduling of appointments, including the scheduling of appointments at the end of the heating season
  - the seemingly unreasonable delays between determinations and payout of benefits

and;

House District 31

*Atkinson Township, Brownville, Dover-Foxcroft, Lake View Plantation, Medford, Milo, Orneville  
Township, & Southeast Piscataquis*

## Representative Chad R. Perkins

an audit into the funding sources and expenditures for the LIHEAP program, including but not limited to,

- a demographic breakdown of the number of benefit payouts/payout amounts by Community Action Program/region
- a demographic breakdown of the number of benefit payouts/payout amounts by fuel type
- a detailed report of all funding sources
- a detailed report of administrative costs/expenditures for program administration

5. Thank you in advance for your polite consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,



Rep. Chad R. Perkins  
District 31

ATT:  
Keim/Arata Letter to GOC/31 Oct 24

DIST:  
Sen. Mike Tipping  
Sen. Jill Duson  
Sen. Jeff Timberlake  
Sen. Rick Bennett  
Sen. Bradlee Farrin  
Rep. Ann Matlack  
Rep. Adam Lee  
Rep. Michael Lemelin  
Rep. John Eder

CF:  
Peter Schleck, Director, OPEGA  
Jennifer Greiner, Committee Clerk

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## MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0003

October 31, 2024

Senator Craig Hickman  
Representative Jessica Fay  
Government Oversight Committee  
c/o Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability  
82 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0082

Dear Senator Hickman, Representative Fay, and members of the Government Oversight Committee,

We are requesting an investigation by the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability (OPEGA) of voter registration and election data maintained by the Department of the Secretary of State's Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions to determine if non-citizens are registered to vote in Maine.

The impetus for this request is the recent release to The Maine Wire of screenshots containing member information within the MaineCare Health PAS Online Portal. The members' information under the "Alien Status" tabs indicate they are either "Legal Alien" or "Other" rather than "US Citizen."

Subsequently, the members' names and addresses were cross-referenced with publicly available voter data and six of them were found to be registered voters. These six individuals were out of a group of 18 living in Portland, thereby indicating this could be a systemic problem.

A thorough OPEGA investigation will either debunk the allegations resulting from the recent whistleblower disclosure or, if verified, compel the Legislature to implement appropriate legislative action to ensure that only Maine citizens can vote. Either outcome of the investigation will be beneficial.

One disturbing aspect of the whistleblower's allegation is that one of the member records contains a note stating that the "client does not have capacity." In the context of medical terminology, the word "capacity" is defined as "the ability to use and understand information to make a decision, and communicate any decision made."

Maine law provides protections for our vulnerable citizens when it comes to making decisions at the ballot box. Those who lack "capacity" are unable to vote under Maine statute because it would be impossible for anybody to assist in "marking the ballot according to the voter's wishes." It is also unlikely that any non-citizen would knowingly endanger their Maine residency by committing the

crime of registering to vote illegally, which leads to questions as to who influenced or assisted with their voter registration.

Other avenues of investigation have been pursued with the Secretary of State, the Attorney General and the Chief Executive. Unfortunately, they have refused to investigate without the names of the MaineCare members in question. Disclosure of these names would allow the discovery of the source of the information through an analysis of who accessed these records in the portal.

It is very important for concerned citizens to feel confident that they can report criminal acts without being subject to prosecution. Furthermore, journalists cannot be compelled to disclose their sources under Maine statute. Therefore, the only alternative venue for this investigation is OPEGA, which has the authority and investigative tools to review confidential records and is not subject to the Maine Freedom of Access Act.

The Maine Legislature has an obligation to all Maine citizens to ensure that our electoral process is safe and secure. Voters in the upcoming election need to be confident that this matter will be investigated. Anyone who is considering voter fraud should also be aware that they will be caught and prosecuted if they do so. We look forward to further discussion of this request at the next meeting of the Government Oversight Committee.

Respectfully,



Lisa Keim  
State Senator, District 19  
Assistant Senate Republican Leader



Amy Arata  
State Representative, District 104  
Assistant House Republican Leader

Cc: Members, Government Oversight Committee