

Janet Beaudoin
Lewiston
LD 555

Good afternoon members of the Health and Human Services Committee.

My name is Janet Beaudoin, a Lewiston resident running for the Maine House of Representatives in the upcoming special election. As a candidate committed to serving families, I'm testifying in strong support of LD 555 to establish a standalone Department of Child and Family Services.

Maine's child fatalities have more than doubled from 68 in 2013-2018 to 155 in 2019-2024, despite OCFS funding rising over 60% to \$59.6 million. This crisis demands structural change, not just more money in a bloated DHHS system that's tabled reforms before, even with bipartisan Senate passage (22-8). A cabinet level department with direct Governor oversight could deliver the accountability our kids need.

Thank you for listening,
Janet Beaudoin