

5/12/2023
Kevin Goodoak
Re: LD1854

Good morning my name is Kevin Goodoak and I have been a caseworker with OCFS for nine months. I took the morning off to talk about my experiences so far. Everyday I go into the office I pass by three empty desks before I get to mine. The lack of staff heavily impacts my ability to serve the people of Maine. I have had to explain to parents that there are no staff to supervise visits between them and their children. That they may need to wait one to three months, and that I can't supervise every visit for every family I work with.

Those three empty desks I walk by weren't always empty, and they're not the only empty desks on my floor. I've watched new staff fill the empty desks and leave that month. I've watched three experienced caseworkers that trained me pack up and leave, and they're leaving for other case management positions. I talk with case managers from crossroads, pathways, and woodfords almost daily. We talk about our work. I know that their caseloads are lower, the positions are less complex, and every Friday I get emails about openings in these case management organizations.

Thank you for your time and please support LD1854 to keep caseworkers like me behind our desks at OCFS.