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MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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**TOM KUNSE**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

April 26, 2023

Doug Ringler, CPA, CIA  
Auditor General  
201 N. Washington Square  
Lansing, MI 48913

Auditor General Ringler:

I am writing to request an audit of Michigan's Child Development and Care (CDC) program. This needs-based subsidy program, which helps families pay for child care, is administered by the Office of Great Start in the Department of Education, but the Department of Health and Human Services determines a family's eligibility.<sup>1</sup>

New reporting by the *Detroit Free Press* reveals several problems within the CDC process for determining eligibility changes and communicating them to parents and child care providers.<sup>2</sup> These issues, which have reportedly imposed serious financial burdens on families and providers, deserve a thorough review, and I respectfully ask that you examine the extent and causes of the following:

- Caseworkers giving eligibility information (including, but not limited to, the number of child care hours for which a family is eligible) to parents or providers that conflicts with official notice;
- Erroneous termination or other change to a family's eligibility;
- Delayed notice of a termination or other eligibility change to parents or providers;
- The difficulty of getting information through the hotline (time spent on hold, days-long waits for a callback appointment, etc.); and
- The lack of back payments to compensate for wrongful eligibility termination.

As you review these issues, it may be worthwhile to examine whether the division of roles between the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services has contributed to errors and communication delays.

Thank you in advance for your review. The *Free Press* article provides additional information and context, and please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions. A detailed understanding will enable legislators and administrators to correct shortcomings so the CDC program can better serve parents and child care providers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Kunse".

Tom Kunse  
State Representative  
District 100

<sup>1</sup> "State of Michigan Child Development and Care (CDC) handbook" ([https://www.michigan.gov/mikidsmatter/-/media/Project/Websites/mde/ogs/cdc-2/provider\\_docs/cdc\\_handbook.pdf?rev=f284ea0eda1943b59d26bc49b9990c30&hash=DC8B8C6482F7AD3987D95CE81702FA47](https://www.michigan.gov/mikidsmatter/-/media/Project/Websites/mde/ogs/cdc-2/provider_docs/cdc_handbook.pdf?rev=f284ea0eda1943b59d26bc49b9990c30&hash=DC8B8C6482F7AD3987D95CE81702FA47)).

<sup>2</sup> "Child care subsidy snafus leave providers unpaid and parents without options," *Detroit Free Press*, April 24, 2023 (<https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2023/04/24/child-care-subsidy-payments-dhhs/70141268007/>)