



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE CHILD ADVOCATE
ONE ASHBURTON PLACE, 11TH FLOOR • BOSTON, MA 02108
MAIN: (617) 979-8374 • WWW.MASS.GOV/CHILDACTIVATE

MARIA Z. MOSSAIDES
DIRECTOR

The Honorable Timothy Carroll
24 Beacon Street, Room 145
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Michael D. Hurley
24 Beacon St, Room 335
Boston, MA 02133

February 3, 2026

Dear Clerk Carroll and Clerk Hurley,

I am pleased to submit to you the Office of the Child Advocate's FY2025 Annual Report as required under M.G.L. Chapter 18C, Section 10.

The Office of the Child Advocate (OCA) is committed to ensuring that children and their families receive high-quality, effective, and timely state services while identifying gaps and recommending improvements to systems, policies, and practices.

The Annual Report details key data related to the OCA's core mandated functions, including 993 Complaint Line inquiries, 240 critical incident reports, 491 DCF-supported reports of abuse and/or neglect in out-of-home settings, and 26 foster care review safety alerts. This represents an overall increase in the volume and complexity of cases brought to the OCA's attention. In FY25, the total number of cases rose to 1,750, representing a 33% increase over the previous year. Additionally, more detailed data about the OCA's core functions will be provided in a data supplement released later this fiscal year.

In addition to its oversight functions, the OCA also remains committed to advancing prevention-focused reforms, projects, and policies designed to improve child safety and wellbeing. The report details a wide variety of research projects, training initiatives, and pilot projects undertaken by the OCA in FY25.

Please feel free to contact my office at childadvocate@mass.gov with any questions.

Sincerely,

Maria Z. Mossaides
Director, Office of the Child Advocate