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DIRECTOR

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
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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

May 26, 2026

Dear Clerk Carroll and Clerk Hurley,

I am pleased to submit to you the Office of the Child Advocate's Annual Data Report for Fiscal Year 2025 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.

This report analyzes the OCA's activities spanning Fiscal Years 2019 through 2025 with an emphasis on FY25. In FY25, the OCA received and reviewed 1,750 reports and Complaint Line inquiries involving nearly 2,000 children -- the highest total volume of reports/inquiries in the OCA's history. This points to heightened awareness of the OCA, rising demand for assistance navigating state systems, and indicates shifts in harm experienced by children across the Commonwealth.

The OCA received 993 Complaint Line inquiries in FY25, an 87% increase from FY24. This reflects efforts to help make the public aware of the OCA and its Complaint Line, which can serve as a resource for anyone with concerns about a child or youth receiving state services. In addition, there was a fourfold increase in direct youth engagement through the OCA's Youth Engagement Initiative, which reached 195 children in congregate care placements in FY25.

The full report can be located at: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/office-of-the-child-advocate-annual-data-report-fiscal-year-2025-0/download>

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

Sincerely,

Maria Z. Mossaides
Director, Office of the Child Advocate