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Timothy Carroll  
Clerk of the House  
24 Beacon Street, Room 145  
State House  
Boston, MA 02133

Michael Hurley  
Clerk of the Senate  
24 Beacon Street, Room 335  
State House  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Clerks Carroll and Hurley,

Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 38 Section 2A, I am pleased to submit to you the [Fiscal Year 2025 \(FY25\) Child Fatality Review Annual Report](#). The report highlights the work of the State and Local Child Fatality Review Teams in FY25, provides data on the state of child and infant fatalities in 2023, and presents recommendations for the purpose of child fatality prevention.

Massachusetts continues to experience relatively low rates of child and infant fatalities compared to national averages, reflecting the strength of the Commonwealth's health and human services infrastructure. However, this overall progress masks disparities in age, sex, race, geography, and cause of death that demand focused attention.

Among these disparities is the finding that adolescents ages 15- to 17-years-old are at increased risk of fatality due to motor vehicle collisions. **Between 2018 and 2023, 41 teen vehicle occupants ages 15 to 17 died in motor vehicle crashes on Massachusetts roadways.** These preventable deaths reflect long-standing patterns in teen driver risk—nighttime driving, speeding, seatbelt nonuse, and inexperience—compounded by barriers to driver education, mass transportation, and evolving challenges like cannabis-impaired, distracted, and drowsy driving.

Drawing from research, national best practices, and local experts' insights, the CFR program outlines a targeted set of policy and programmatic recommendations in three key areas of skill-building for young drivers, mitigating high-risk behaviors, and increasing access to affordable mass transportation. The report is attached to this email and is available for download [here](#).

The State Child Fatality Review Team was established in 1999 within the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. The Office of the Child Advocate is providing administrative and operational support to the State Team, including submitting the statutorily required annual report. As the Child Advocate, I submit this annual report on behalf of the State Child Fatality Review Team.

Our office is happy to further discuss this report with you and/or your staff. Please contact Ari Fertig, Legislative and Communications Director, for any further inquiries at [ari.fertig@mass.gov](mailto:ari.fertig@mass.gov).

Thank you,

Marisol García  
Director, Office of the Child Advocate