

*128th Legislature*  
*Senate of*  
*Maine*  
*Senate District 11*

*Senator Michael D. Thibodeau*  
*President of the Senate*  
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March 2, 2018

Paul R. LePage, Governor  
State of Maine  
1 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Governor LePage:

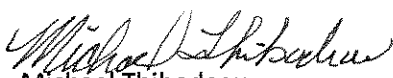
Recent media reports following the tragic death of 10 year-old Marissa Kennedy have claimed the Department of Health and Human Services was notified about suspected abuse that was happening to Marissa. If this is true, I believe the people of Maine deserve to know what the Department knew and what actions were taken. It is important the people of Maine understand what happened and what we can do to prevent this from happening again.

I am aware that this matter is being examined because of statutorily-required reviews. However, I would ask that you, as Governor, dig into this matter as best you can. I believe this incident is of such significance that any investigation should include your personal attention.

As you are keenly aware, the people of Maine care deeply about the children in our state. I personally have confidence in the staff at the Department of Health and Human Services; however, these reports have shaken the public's trust. Furthermore, I believe there would be great value in reviewing the policies and procedures that are in place and improve upon them where needed. Your personal attention into this matter will help assure the public that reports of child abuse do not fall on deaf ears and that they are taken very seriously.

While it is unconscionable that Marissa Kennedy's life was taken away, we must ensure this does not happen again. Marissa's story must not be in vain. I thank you for your attention and offer my help in any way possible. Should legislation be necessary to improve child protection laws, please bring forward a bill; and I will work to see it goes to your desk for your approval.

Sincerely,

  
Michael Thibodeau  
President of the Senate