



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF STATE INSPECTOR GENERAL

April 15, 2019

Honorable Rob Kauffman, Majority Chairman
House Judiciary Committee
89th Legislative District
312 Main Capitol Building
P.O. Box 202089
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Honorable Karen Boback, Majority Chairman
House Children and Youth Committee
117th Legislative District
41B East Wing
P.O. Box 202117
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Chairman Kauffman and Boback:

I am in receipt of your letter dated April 4, 2019, wherein you request that the Office of State Inspector General “initiate and complete a thorough review of the Department of Human Services with respect to its fulfilment of its responsibilities as it relates to the life and death of Grace Packer.” As you note in your letter, the Department of Human Services recently disseminated its own redacted thirty-four-page fatality review report. The Department of Human Services Report on the Fatality (Report) was finalized on February 8, 2018, but was only made public a short time ago upon completion of the underlying murder trial involving Grace’s adoptive mother and her boyfriend.

While the Report does thoroughly summarize and address several of the failures of various county-level agencies with respect to Grace Packer, a review by the Office of State Inspector General could assist the Department of Human Services in its effort to further employ ways to improve their operations. The Office of State Inspector General will therefore undertake a targeted and expedited investigation of identified issues that fall within our jurisdictional purview and statutory purpose.

I must make you aware that the Office of State Inspector General neither comments on nor provides updates regarding its ongoing investigations. To this end, there will be no additional communication to you regarding this matter prior to the completion of the investigation. Thank you very much for the work you do as Chairmen of your respective committees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce R. Beemer".

Bruce R. Beemer
State Inspector General