



New Mexico State Senate  
State Capitol  
Santa Fe

March 13, 2026

Honorable Joseph Maestas  
New Mexico State Auditor  
2540 Camino Edward Ortiz, Suite A  
Santa Fe, NM 87507

Honorable Raul Torrez  
New Mexico Attorney General  
408 Galisteo Street  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Auditor Maestas and AG Torrez,

We are writing regarding the recent audit findings concerning the use of legislative appropriations within the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD). As lawmakers responsible for the oversight and stewardship of taxpayer resources, we believe it is critical that members of the Legislature receive a complete and transparent understanding of the findings, underlying documentation, and policy implications identified through this review.

Recent correspondence transmitted to the Legislative Finance Committee outlines significant concerns related to the use of funds appropriated by the Legislature, including expenditures that appear to fall outside the intended purpose of those appropriations. These findings raise important questions about fiscal controls, program implementation, and the broader impact on services intended to support New Mexico's vulnerable children and families.

In light of the seriousness of these concerns, we respectfully request the following:

Transmission of the Full Audit Materials – That the complete audit report and any supporting documentation be formally transmitted to members of the New Mexico Legislature at the earliest possible opportunity so that lawmakers may fully review the findings.

Joint Presentation to an Interim Legislative Committee – That the Office of the State Auditor and the Office of the Child Advocate (under the jurisdiction of the NM Department of Justice) provide a joint presentation outlining the audit findings, oversight concerns, and recommendations at the earliest appropriate convening of a legislative interim committee with jurisdiction over these matters, such as the Legislative Finance Committee, the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee, or another appropriate body.

Discussion of Policy and Oversight Implications – That the presentation include discussion of the scope and methodology of the audit; any identified misuse or misalignment of legislative appropriations; recommendations for improved accountability and oversight; and potential statutory or administrative reforms needed to ensure funds intended to support children and families are used as directed by the Legislature.

The Legislature has both a fiscal and moral obligation to ensure that appropriated funds are used for their intended purposes and that systems responsible for protecting vulnerable children operate with transparency and accountability.

We appreciate the work of your offices and look forward to a constructive discussion that will help inform the Legislature’s ongoing oversight responsibilities.

Please feel free to coordinate with our offices regarding scheduling and the appropriate venue for this briefing.

Respectfully,



Senator Nicole Tobiassen  
Senate District 21



Senator Crystal Brantley  
Senate District 35