



201 TOWNSEND STREET, SUITE 7400
 P.O. BOX 30036
 LANSING, MI 48909-7536
 PHONE: (517) 373-2420
 TOLL-FREE: (866) DIST-022
 FAX: (517) 373-2764
 SenLTheis@senate.michigan.gov

MICHIGAN STATE SENATOR
LANA THEIS
 22ND DISTRICT

Wednesday, November 10, 2021

COMMITTEES:
 INSURANCE AND BANKING, CHAIR
 EDUCATION AND CAREER READINESS, CHAIR
 ADVICE AND CONSENT, VICE CHAIR
 REGULATORY REFORM, VICE CHAIR
 HEALTH POLICY AND HUMAN SERVICES
 OVERSIGHT
 JOINT COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE RULES
 APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON K-12 AND
 MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Doug A. Ringler, CPA, CIA
 Auditor General
 Office of the Auditor General
 201 N. Washington Square, 6th Floor
 Lansing, MI 48913

Dear Mr. Ringler,

This past Tuesday, an 80-year-old woman was found deceased less than 24 hours after being reported missing from Greener Acres, an adult foster care facility located in Oceola Township. The loss of life under this type of circumstance is devastating and should cause us to determine how something like this could occur.

As you are aware, the Covid-19 pandemic, the ensuing executive orders, and department policies designed to contain it, wrought havoc on our state’s nursing homes, long-term care facilities, and adult foster care facilities. Because of changing department policies, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services ceased mandated inspections of these facilities for over a year.

As a result of the incident in Oceola Township, I began to research the status of inspections here in Michigan and what I found was alarming.

Although Michigan restarted nursing home inspections earlier this year, as of August, 60 percent of the state’s 435 nursing homes had gone without a standard survey for nearly a year and a half. That number does not account for mandated inspections in long-term care or adult foster care facilities.

So far, inspectors in Michigan have found a range of compliance issues and severe deficiencies, sometimes in the same facility. CMS data shows the average number of deficiencies in U.S. nursing homes is 8.3, while the reported average number found in Michigan facilities is much higher (13.8). The data also shows that many facilities throughout Michigan, including those that are county-owned, have not had a health inspection since 2019.

I write today to ask that the Office of the Auditor General perform a series of audits in order to provide a comprehensive review of nursing home inspections during and subsequent to the COVID-19 lockdowns.

Among the areas I respectfully request you investigate include the types of inspections currently mandated by the federal or state government for nursing homes, long-term care facilities, and adult foster care facilities. Furthermore, I find it important that we learn how many facilities had their mandated inspections delayed due to COVID-19 inspection policies issued by MDHHS, how many facilities still have not completed their inspections, and how many and what deficiencies are being found or reported once inspections are conducted.

Thank you so much for considering my request. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,



Lana Theis
State Senator
Michigan's 22nd District