

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 10, 2023

Ms. Michelle Baass
Director
California Department of Health Care Services
P.O. Box 997413, MS 0000
Sacramento, CA 95899-7413

Dear Director Baass:

We write today to express our interest in the Department of Health Care Service's (DHCS) oversight and review of allegations of substandard care leading to preventable deaths in the pediatric intensive care unit (PICU) at John Muir Hospital. We respectfully request to be kept up-to-date on any actions taken by DHCS.

As you know, reporting in the *San Francisco Chronicle* has detailed allegations that a lack of experience among medical staff resulted in multiple preventable deaths in the PICU at John Muir Hospital. In an email to the newspaper, DHCS announced that it would "conduct a program review of John Muir."¹ We appreciate this commitment, and we trust that any review will be thorough and impartial, exhausting all possible avenues for information about these tragic and untimely deaths and any potential violation of standards of care.

While we understand the sensitive nature of any investigation, and that this investigation is being conducted at the state level, we will be closely following the outcome of this investigation as John Muir treats our constituents and receives federal funding. Your initial review will help determine whether further action is required at the federal level.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We request a response by January 24, 2023 and look forward to being kept closely informed about DHCS's current and future actions on this matter.

Sincerely,



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Alex Padilla
United States Senator

¹ <https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/john-muir-hospital-investigation-17657919.php>