

Senator Roger Chamberlain
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Senate
State of Minnesota

January 27, 2022

Judy Randall
Office of Legislative Auditor
658 Cedar St Suite 140
St. Paul, MN 55155

Ms. Randall,

The recent news stories about the FBI investigation of the nonprofit, Feeding Our Future, has us deeply concerned about the Minnesota Department of Education's (MDE) management of federal funds. According to the reports, Feeding Our Future has defrauded the U.S. Department of Agriculture of millions of dollars through a grant that was administered by our state's Department of Education. Very little of the money that flowed through MDE was used to feed children.

We are writing to request two things of the Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA). First, we are requesting that the OLA conduct an audit of MDE and their management of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Child and Adult Care Food Program and the Summer Food Service Program as it relates to agreements with the nonprofit Feeding Our Future (and any affiliated organizations). Were state funds or other resources misused by MDE?

Second, we are requesting that the OLA prepare an estimate of the full-time equivalent and money needed to conduct a complete audit of all the federal COVID-19 funds that flow through MDE. Over \$2.8 billion of federal money has flowed through MDE since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic to support our school communities through disruptions and programming changes. What resources are needed to conduct a thorough audit of those COVID-19-related federal funds that are flowing through the department?

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger Chamberlain".

Senator Roger Chamberlain

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Kiffmeyer".

Sen. Mary Kiffmeyer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle Benson".

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maud Kow".

Sen. Michelle Benson

Sen. Mark Koran