

UNITED STATES OFFICE OF
GOVERNMENT ETHICS



June 27, 2023

The Honorable Gary Peters
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thomas Carper
Chairman
Committee on Environment and
Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maggie Hassan
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Peter Welch
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Peters, Chairman Carper, Senator Hassan, and Senator Welch:

When I became Director of the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) nearly five years ago, legal expense funds were a topic of great public interest and I publicly committed to working with OGE's talented staff to promulgate guidance that would address these concerns, as well as provide clear guidance for federal executive branch employees. It is for these reasons that I am particularly pleased to write to you as someone interested in this topic to let you know that we have met this commitment.

Specifically, on May 25, 2023, OGE published a final regulation on legal expense funds in the Federal Register. The new regulation contains standards for an employee's acceptance of payments for legal expenses through a legal expense fund and an employee's acceptance of pro bono legal services for a matter arising in connection with an employee's official position, prior position on a campaign of a candidate for President or Vice President, or prior position on a Presidential Transition Team. The new regulation is available at <https://federalregister.gov/documents/2023/05/25/2023-10290/legal-expense-fund-regulation>.

I appreciate your interest in government ethics and look forward to your continued support of OGE and its important mission.

Very respectfully,

Emory A. Rounds, III
Director

cc: The Honorable Rand Paul, Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

