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Olga Roche needs bigger budget

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AS A former deputy commissioner of the Department of Social Services — now known as the Department of Children and Families — I have a well-founded understanding of the pressing challenges DCF faces in strengthening families and protecting our state's children. The calls for DCF Commissioner Olga Roche to resign or be fired are shortsighted and may only seek to mask real problems, such as the persistent underfunding of our state's system of community-based care.

Adjusted for inflation, the DCF budget has been cut by nearly \$130 million since 2009. While money alone is not the solution, we cannot expect optimal results for this agency — or any other — if it doesn't have the staff and provider resources.

The state must give DCF the resources it needs to succeed. Roche has the expertise and leadership to effectively manage DCF and ensure the department provides the high-quality services that our state's children deserve.

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The writer is president of the Providers Council.