To whom it may concern

My name is Kimberly Tindall and I am legally blind. I moved to Connecticut in July of 2009. I moved here after spending twenty six years in Syracuse, New York. I worked as a funeral director for many years. I was diagnosed with a rare incurable disease, that affects my vision among other things. When I moved here I was so lost and did not dream of a future. Then one day I had an interview with the Para transit service. They had a brochure on the table in the waiting room. I called BESB and I started having hope again. I met with my vocational instructor Jeannette Rodriguez. She let me know that I can still do things and they could send me away for independent living skills. She gave me so much hope. I felt like living again. You see before meeting with her I honestly thought that life was over. I also thought that my working days were over. She sent me to the Carroll Center for the Blind. When I left there, I had so much confidence. It all started when I met with a representative from BESB. I now get out and do something daily. My next goals are to get a job (with help from BESB). Then get a handicapped apartment. I now have the confidence that you need to live this life successfully. And I have no doubt that it began with BESB. It is a scary to think that BESB might not be able to offer the same service in the future. I now look forward to living my life to the fullest. It is because of this agency. We really need this agency to be a separate entity. If it is merged with another agency then services will be compromised. I thank you in advance for your time.

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