

I am opposed to SB 1021, transferring services for the blind to the Dept of Social Services and Dept of Education. I am a World War II veteran, former business owner and a retired member of the Ct Carpenters, local 43. I have been a CT resident for 92 yrs. I lost my sight a few years ago and received low vision services from BESB. They were responsive to my needs and offered assistance in a timely and expeditious manner. It was the first time I had ever received state services. All it took was a phone call to that office and the staff came to me. I doubt it would have been that easy to request and receive assistance if the services had to come from the Dept of Social Services. I most likely would not have bothered and just accepted my lack of independence. BESB receives little funding from the State of CT and integrating BESB with DDS would result in a long delay for services with additional hardships. I can only imagine the difficulty it would create for students having to get services from the State Dept of Education. Please leave BESB to operate as a separate agency so they can continue offering great services and helping the blind to lead a better life.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter Olko

scribed by a family member