

Appropriations Committee Members

House Bill #6380

Elimination of Board of Education Services for the Blind

Members of the Committee

My name is Marie-Anne Barnhart. I am a Lion member from North Haven Lions Club and I oppose bill #6380 - elimination of BESB.

If the separation of BESB is successful, programs will be negatively impacted. You are asking a department with no experience with face to face educational services to do that.

BESB offers comprehensive consolidated solutions to the blind, and visually impaired. These hand crafted solutions allow many successful outcomes. As a blind person transitions from a child to an adult, BESB has prepared the to work towards independence and to be a contributing member of society. To take that away, would be to literally cripple these wonderful, productive, vitally important people, and reduce them to a sub culture.

As Lions we work with the blind and visually impaired often, and find them to be fine, educated and productive members of society.

Please reconsider your thinking and leave the BESB separate and let them do their job.

Respectfully concerned,

Marie-Anne Barnhart
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