Appropriations Committee Members

House Bill #6380

Elimination of BESB

Members of the Committee.

My name is Rosangela Ward , mother of a 15 year old, spunky, legally blind daughter from North Haven and I oppose the proposed bill #6380 -Elimination of BESB.

BESB, Board of Education Services for the Blind, services approximately 13,000 Connecticut legally blind residents that require specialized attention from birth to death to promote independence.

The children that are being serviced by BESB will be the victims if this bill goes into law. BESB provides the tools and skills they will need as well as support and educate for their families and district school teachers. Daily living skills are typically learned by seeing and through example. How are blind children going to see how to do laundry or cross a street safely? BESB provides those skills through their programs and resources giving our children a future. Such simple tasks that you and I take for granted on a daily basis are taught and modified so that they can accomplish their goals. BESB empowers our kids to aim high every day and strive for excellence. Isn't that all we want for our kids?

Don't "disable" our kids by making them a burden to society when what we have through BESB is consolidated services to educate and guide our children to be independent, productive, active, tax-paying members of society. Please Governor Malloy do not turn out the lights on our kids. They need that light to guide them to a better tomorrow for themselves as well as for Connecticut.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosangela Ward

North Haven

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