

**Burns, Vanessa**

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**From:** Esther Levegnale [elevegnale@sbcglobal.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 01, 2011 9:37 AM  
**To:** AppropriationTestimony  
**Subject:** HB6380

To Whom It May Concern:

Because I cannot be present at the hearing concerning HB6380 on Friday, March 4, calling for the consolidation of the Board of Education and Services for the Blind with other state agencies, I would like to submit the following testimony:

As a totally blind person, I have had services from this agency through my years of high school, college, and employment and found them to be very accommodating to my needs. Particularly, throughout my employment as a medical transcriptionist at Waterbury Hospital for 30 years, they had provided me with various types of adaptive technological equipment throughout this period and this adaptive equipment had been provided as changes in my coworkers equipment evolved as well.

I feel that blind and visually impaired people as a whole need this agency as a separate entity from other state agencies, as our needs would be better met, as other agencies, are not familiar with our needs, particularly in the areas of education with students needing to learn Braille and being literate and proficient in its use, and in the areas of fast-growing technology.

I strongly urge the Appropriations Committee to keep the Board of Education and Services for the Blind separate so that blind people could continue to be independent in employment and in other facets of our lives.

Sincerely,  
Esther Levegnale  
Waterbury, CT