

Burns, Vanessa

From: Kathy Rooney [krooney@guidingeyes.org]

Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2011 12:13 PM

To: AppropriationTestimony

Subject: Keep BESB separate

To Whom This may concern:

I am writing with great concern about the recent proposal to merge BESB under one roof along with the Department of Education. BESB has served many blind and visually impaired folks over the years to better their lives along with that of the community in regards to mobility and also employment. I work in the Dog Guide Field and have placed hundreds of dogs with clients in the state of Connecticut over the years. One prerequisite is that a person receives mobility training prior. I can't tell you how both of these areas change and enhance a person's life forever.

I feel many people wait until someone they know and love is affected with vision loss before they understand the depth of what this means. PLEASE keep BESB a separate organization to keep providing the best services possible for the children and adults affected with blindness and vision loss.

Sincerely,

Kathy Rooney
Field Representative
Guiding Eyes for the Blind