

March 1, 2011

To Whom It May Concern,

This is in reference to Appropriations #6380. My name is Anne Rampone and my son who is age 11 has received services through BESB since he was just starting school.

I was very disappointed hearing about the possible split of BESB into 2 separate organizations. My first question is will both organizations have a top level director who specializes in visual impairments? My other thought is that I don't want to have to deal with 2 separate organizations for my son. It would be much more effective for me to use one organization from the time he is little until he is well into his upper adult years.

There is such a learning curve servicing kids and adults with visual impairments. It seems like common sense to me to keep the experts in the field together to share knowledge bases and come up with new and innovative approaches to helping the visually impaired. To me, it seems that having 2 separate organizations doing this separately is just reinventing the wheel and very inefficient in my opinion.

I can tell you that I have been highly impressed by the quality of the experts that I have dealt with at BESB. The one unique feature I love about BESB is that it's one stop shopping for everything. The fact that we'd have to start with a whole different organization at a certain age is disconcerting in that we have already built relationships and would have to start all over from scratch.

It is with my greatest hope that BESB will remain one organization. My opinion is that you don't want to separate the experts. Leave them together and let them service the visually impaired as one "expert" organization.

Thank you,

Anne Rampone
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