

To Whom It May Concern,

I write to you with great concern about the effects of the proposed House Bill 6380 on the Board of Education School for the Blind (BESB). I am afraid that the consolidation of state agencies may negatively impact the services for our blind students in Connecticut.

As a Vernon Greenways Volunteer I am familiar with the events held at Valley Falls Park where expert fishermen teach blind students how to fish while volunteers from the town help students navigate their way through nature trails. I am now aware of the huge positive impact that BESB has on disabled students in our state. And, this is just one small example of the many activities, resources, and programs offering rich, practical learning experiences provided by BESB.

As a certified regular education teacher in Connecticut I have taught deaf and blind students in my classroom. I see how services provided by the state under the guidance of BESB allow disabled students to receive an education equal to any other student in my classroom.

BESB is an established, efficient, well-functioning agency that provides superior services for the blind in Connecticut. This organization effectively meets the needs of and greatly enhances the quality of life for our disabled students. I worry that the consolidation of state agencies would negatively impact the programs provided by the current administration of the agency. Therefore, I ask you to please support BESB's efforts to remain intact.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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