

**Carolyn Dodd
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To: Human Services Committee

Date: February 28, 2011

**Re: Proposed Division of the Board of Education and
Services For the Blind;**

I would like to express my opposition to this proposal.

**I was born in 1936 without sight. Fortunately, some sight
was restored. However, there were many challenges with
education and the pursuit of employment.**

**The Board of Education and Services for the Blind has been
invaluable in its assistance to me.**

**Excellent mobility and orientation training, counseling,
technical assistance and computer training were readily
available to me**

**I recently retired from elementary school teaching for forty
years with a double master's degree.**

**Had these services not been available, my history might be
quite different.**

**Recent data and statistics indicate that without proper
training and education specific to blindness, the result is
usually illiteracy, unemployment, dependency and isolation.
Please, let's avoid the possibility of such consequences in an
already burdened economy.**