

Nora Yanet Parry

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Tuesday, March 15, 2011

HUMAN SERVICES Committee

Re: Testimony, HB 6380 / SB 1012

My name is Nora Yanet Parry. My husband, Mark N. Parry, and I are the parents of a 5 yr. old boy. He was born severely premature, causing him to become legally blind. He still has routine doctors' visits for his eyes with the doctors at the New York Presbyterian Hospital. He was born at the New York Presbyterian Hospital in New York City and spent almost 3 and half months there after his birth. Our son has received services from BESB (Board of Education Services for the Blind) beginning right after he made it home after he was born.

Ever since, Robert has received intensive therapy and educational guidance. BESB has been a tremendous source of assistance for our visually impaired child, supplying him with help both at home and at school. We were shocked to hear news of the proposed bill to eliminate BESB and to divide it into two agencies. For us, our biggest concern is that the services we receive will not be readily available. Not only was the beginning of our child's life difficult for him, but it was difficult for us as parents as well. BESB provided needed services to us during that difficult period. Not having the services that BESB provides to our child will adversely affect our child's progress in the future. The services that BESB provides helps our child's growth, development, education and general well being. All of the progress that he has made so far has been with the help of BESB. It is incomprehensible to us that BESB would be eliminated.

We oppose eliminating BESB. Please do not take away the great help that BESB that has done for our child. Transferring the services we receive from BESB to two new agencies would force our child, and us, to face the difficulties of beginning again.

Sincerely yours,

Nora and Mark Parry