

To whom it may concern:

My name is Richard McGaffin and I'm a fifty-year-old legally blind individual. I wish to offer this statement as my testimony for SB1012. In my opinion I think it would be a serious mistake to merge the Board of Education and Services for the Blind (BESB) with other state agencies.

I am and have been employed as a customer service representative for the past 9 years; however due to out sourcing of our company, I will soon find myself unemployed. In the past I have been able to count on BESB for help in seeking employment and any equipment or services I may need to do my job successfully.

Although I agree times are difficult for the state and I can also understand that the state needs to cut corners, eliminating or merging BESB with the other state agencies would be a mistake. I must ask what kind of services could the blind hope to receive if we are forced to compete with other disabled folks for services.

I could probably ramble on for at least another three hours; however, I believe my point has been made. In closing I wish to thank you for taking the time to read this testimony.

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