

Appropriations Committee

Re: Senate Bill #1012 regarding the Board of Education and Services for the Blind

Dear Committee Members:

I write to urge you to reject Senate Bill #1012, which would dismember the Board of Education and Services for the Blind (BESB). Instead, you should opt to keep the Agency whole because:

Blind children grow up to be blind adults. It saves money to serve clients through the life span in one agency, where the Children's Services unit can learn from the Adult Services unit exactly what skills the children who are blind will need in order to become valued contributors to the Connecticut economy.

The Bill strips the Agency Board of its powers to make policy. The blind population needs and deserves a policy-making, not an advisory, board.

If cost savings are the goal, there are many efficiencies that could be absorbed by the Agency as it now stands that would far surpass the \$400,000 that Senate Bill #1012 hopes to achieve.

Kathy Harsany  
10 Elskip Lane  
Greenwich, CT 06831