



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

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Office of Policy and Management

Testimony Supporting Senate Bill No. 1012

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SERVICES FOR THE BLIND AND THE COMMISSION ON THE DEAF AND HEARING IMPAIRED TO THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Senator Musto, Representative Tercyak and distinguished members of the Human Services Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on Senate Bill No. 1012, *An Act Implementing the Governor's Budget Recommendations Concerning the Transfer of Functions from the Board of Education and Services for the Blind and the Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired to the Departments of Education and Social Services*.

This bill is necessary to implement the Governor's Budget. It transfers the children's services of the Board of Education and Services for the Blind (BESB) to the Department of Education (SDE). All other functions and services of BESB, including adult services, vocational rehabilitation, business enterprises and management are transferred to the Department of Social Services (DSS), Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS). This bill also transfers the Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired (CDHI) and all of the agency services, including interpreting, counseling, and management functions to DSS.

Integrating BESB and CDHI with the BRS and DSS streamlines the services the state offers for persons with disabilities, improving service delivery. Instead of having three state agencies offering services for persons with blindness and/or deafness, the state would have one agency providing comprehensive programming for all adults with blindness and/or deafness. Savings from this integration would be approximately \$600,000 in each year of the biennium.

I would like to again thank the committee for the opportunity to submit this testimony. I respectfully request the Committee to support this bill. If you have any questions on this bill, please submit them to my office and they will be promptly answered.