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**From:** 2 [claflamme6@aol.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 06, 2012 4:38 PM

**To:** AppropriationTestimony

**Subject:** I Oppose the Proposed Merger between OPA and OGA

This is to request your intervention re: the proposed combining of OPA and OGA into one office. I have a handicapped adult daughter who depends on state agencies for help. The OPA has always been there to advocate for her needs. To my knowledge, although OGA deals with equally important issues, it does not deal with advocacy. I am certain that if the offices are combined, my daughter will lose her primary advocacy group -- OPA. When too many demands are placed on one large group, peoples' needs get overlooked. Both agencies do great work now, but if the agencies were combined, the personnel would have to do additional tasks, some which may be unfamiliar to them, and the clients would lose their independence of contacting familiar people -- keep the process simple, otherwise the clients will be the losers!!

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3/7/2012