

To: Environment Committee

From: Concettina Rafala Chair, DORS – BESB, State
Rehabilitation Council

Date: March 22, 2013

Subject: “Against” Bill # 6654 Act Concerning
Sportsmen Related Revisions To The General
Statutes

Dear Chairs and Committee Members,

I am writing to you in hopes that you will take into consideration my testimony against Bill # 6654. I strongly oppose section 4 of the bill. In being a legally blind member of society I cannot express how this change will negatively impact this integral partnership that is between The Bureau Of Education And Service For The Blind (BESB), and it's legally blind small business owners. See these entrepreneurs are part of a program that empowers legally blind individuals to be self reliant and valuable members to society. By taking away our opportunity to hold businesses in our state parks and buildings it would just be another blow to the hopes and dreams of blind individuals across the State of CT. This bill would not just impact our currently

struggling blind individuals but also our youth. Our legally blind youth are struggling tremendously in just trying to compete for jobs with non-visually impaired youths. Please this is a plea in hopes that you will not pass this bill and keep our hardworking entrepreneurs employed in their “own businesses”. Please do not make them another statistic in the unemployment world that is already cruel not only to non-disabled individuals but extremely cruel to disabled individual.

With Sincere Thanks,

Concettina Rafala
Middletown, CT