

Good day to respective members who will be reading this.

Re: Bill 6654 Provision to revoke the priority of blind entrepreneurs under the Board of Education and Services for the Blind of the Business Enterprise Program, State of Connecticut

My name is Stephen Hillyer. I am writing in opposition to the provision in Bill 6654 to revoke the priority of blind entrepreneurs under the Board of Education and Services for the Blind of the Business Enterprise Program (BEP), State of Connecticut.

Blind people have an unemployment rate of 70% and we need to safeguard the opportunities to be working, tax paying, productive individuals and not be a burden on society. As the BEP Program does not cost the State of CT any money, the program should be maintained because the program is funded by vending machines on State and Federal properties. These monies cover the entire administration of the program.

Thank you for your respectful consideration.

Stephen Hillyer

Operator of Steve's Cafe

Middletown Superior Court

1 Court Street

Middletown, CT

If you have any questions please feel free to call me at work between 8am-2pm, Monday through Friday at (860) 343-8877