A Petition to overturn Executive Order 85, Section 7B

Whereas: The Division of Services for the Blind is one of the smallest agencies in the State government; and

Whereas: The reorganization under Executive Order 85, Section 7B will not result in any savings to the State; and

Whereas: The reorganization will actually cost the State more revenues; and

Whereas: Changing the basic structure of the service delivery network will result in diminished services and derail the goal of enabling blind and visually impaired citizens to obtain jobs with competitive salaries that will make them taxpayers, thereby removing them from SSDI roles; and

Whereas: Such a lack of full services will inevitably cost the State more than would be spent to maintain a separate division to meet the needs of the blind and visually impaired; and

Whereas: The merger of three divisions will result in undue hardship for North Carolina’s blind and visually impaired citizens; and

Whereas: There are only disadvantages and no advantages to be gained by merging the Division of Services for the Blind, the Division of Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation;

Therefore, we respectfully urge the Legislature of the State of North Carolina to eliminate Executive Order 85, Section B.