Your name

your address

January 25, 2010

Dear Legislator:

I am one of your blind constituents, and I am writing to express my adamant and unalterable opposition to consolidating the Commission for the Blind with the Governor's Commission on Disability and the commission for Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The Commission for the Blind has a federal mandate and mission that these other agencies do not share, so combining the three agencies makes absolutely no sense. The proponents of this proposal never asked the blind community for our opinion concerning the proposal. To my mind, that shows not only a tremendous lack of respect for the wishes and needs of blind New Mexicans, but it also demonstrates that the proponents of consolidation do not care how consolidation would affect the blind community, and they certainly do not have our best interests at heart. We have not been asked for our opinion, but we are providing it nonetheless. I ask you to support me and all blind New Mexicans by maintaining the Commission for the Blind in its current status as a separate state agency, providing high-quality services to help blind people like me become gainfully employed and contribute to the growth and well-being of New Mexico's economy. If the Commission for the Blind is consolidated with these other agencies, I will not be able to get the specialized services and training that I need, because these other agencies don't know anything about blindness, and they have no idea what blind people need in order to be successful. Attached is a copy of a resolution passed by the National Federation of the Blind of New Mexico formally expressing our opposition to the consolidation being proposed. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Your name