Your name

your address

January 25, 2010

Dear Legislator:

I am one of your senior blind constituents, and I very strongly oppose consolidating the New Mexico 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, which includes providing independent living services to seniors like myself who are dealing with vision loss and need to be taught new skills so we can remain in our homes and live independently as blind people. These other two agencies have missions that are completely different from that of the Commission for the Blind, so combining the three agencies makes absolutely no sense. Consolidating our Commission with other agencies would be disastrous for the blind community, because then we senior blind citizens will not receive the specialized services and training critical to helping us adjust to living with blindness. It is imperative for the blind community that the Commission for the Blind be maintained as a separate state agency so that it can continue to provide the high-quality services that blind people need. 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, and I sincerely hope that you will support me and the blind community as a whole in maintaining the current status of the Commission for the Blind.

Sincerely,

Your name