Your name

your address

January 25, 2010

Dear Legislator:

I am one of your 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 that these other agencies do not share, so combining the three agencies makes absolutely no sense. I am part of the National Federation of the blind, and we fought strenuously to have our Commission established as a separate state agency in 1986. Consolidating our Commission with other agencies would be disastrous for the blind community, because then we will not receive the specialized services and training that we need in order to become self-supporting, taxpaying citizens. The Commissions job is to help blind people obtain employment and live independently; that mission is not consistent or compatible with the missions of either the Governor's Commission on Disability or the commission for Deaf and Hard of Hearing. 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