



Senator John L. Patrick
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003
207-287-1515

October 7, 2015

Jeanne Paquette
Commissioner
Maine Department of Labor
54 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Commissioner,

It has been brought to my attention that the Maine Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired (DBVI) is undergoing drastic consolidation and realignment due to an apparent budget shortfall. I am greatly concerned not only that DBVI's mission to provide vision rehabilitation and educational services to the blind and visually impaired will be compromised, but that DBVI's federally mandated partner, the Maine State Rehabilitation Council (SRC), has been left completely in the dark with regard to the extent of the budget shortfall and cuts to staffing.

The SRC-DBVI is mandated to review, analyze, and advise DBVI regarding its responsibilities, however it appears that very little effort has been made to keep the SRC-DBVI informed or seek their input on these drastic changes.

While SRC-DBVI has been informed about massive budgetary shortfalls, they have yet to be shown any financials.

This apparent lack of transparency and refusal to include the SRC-DBVI, DBVI staff, and blind and visually impaired consumers is unacceptable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John L. Patrick".

Senator John Patrick
District 18