

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you that my son, Matt Adduci is 18 and exiting high school in June. He has a diagnosis of autism and a severe Communication and speech and language disorder, as well as oral apraxia. He has some self stimulatory behaviors that have worsened over this past year, as well as some ongoing sensory issues. He will be in need of life skills training, vocational and employment options with a job coach, and transportation when he graduates to be able to function more independently in the community and at home. He also needs transportation to leisure activities, and work site when it becomes available, as well as behavioral therapy if needed.

I am pleading with you to eliminate the waiting list for services for young adults with autism, that are in dire need of such to access the community and their life beyond high school. My son is one of them, and I don't want him on a waiting list for 5 to 10 years while we wait for this to become a reality for him.

We are also in need of such funding to expand housing and residential options for this population, as there are few in Connecticut, making it impossible for us to continue living in this state in the future.

I hope you will take these young adults with autism into considering when expanding this bill.

The autism population is exploding, as you well know and we need some reasonable services for our children as they age out of the school system and into the adult world.

It is a scary future for them and for us, their aging parents if these resources do not become more available.