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Representatives,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the issue of Transition Services for adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders. I am speaking today not only as the parent of two young men, ages 15 and 17, with developmental disabilities, but also as someone who is active in the field of education. Despite efforts made on all sides, our public schools have not been able to adequately prepare young people with autism for life as contributing members of their communities.

The work begun by districts under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act needs to be improved and then built upon by the provision of appropriate adult services. Failing to provide this continuance of support would be analogous to running the first 24 miles of a marathon and stopping short of the finish line. Our young adults with autism who are not provided with the transitional supports needed to become independent and contributing members of their communities are being wasted. They have a great deal to offer their communities and potential employers, but they need the chance to demonstrate what they can do. Please fund the provision of these essential services.

Regards,



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