

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 18, 2014

The Honorable Gene Dodaro
Comptroller General
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

It is estimated that every year roughly 50,000 children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) graduate from high school and age out of their school-based support system. They are entering into adulthood and a society that may not be prepared to meet their personal and employment needs and that ultimately limits their productivity and self-sufficiency.

Accordingly, we request a GAO report that describes the demographics of individuals with ASD making the transition to adulthood and identifies their needs with respect to the following categories:

- community integration;
- housing and residential supports;
- employment;
- transportation;
- vocational training and rehabilitation;
- continued education;
- health care and social services;
- speech therapy;
- public safety; and
- day habilitation activities, including those to provide a safe, respectful, and stimulating environment that allows participants to become active members of their community.

We also request that you provide an overview of federal, state, and local government policies and programs, and any available private (including private nonprofit) sector assistance, for addressing the needs of the above-mentioned individuals and provide policy recommendations to: (A) improve outcomes for adults with ASD making the transition from a school-based support system to adulthood; (B) enhance the effectiveness of these policies, programs, and assistance; (C) ensure integration of, and collaboration among, services for addressing the needs of adults with ASD; and (D) encourage independent living, equal opportunity, full participation, and economic self-sufficiency.

In conducting this research, we request that you survey public and private sector stakeholders, including:

- Individuals from the business community representing both large and small businesses;
- Institutions of higher education, community colleges, vocational schools, and university centers for excellence in developmental disabilities;
- Social services providers, including case management experts;
- Vocational rehabilitation experts;
- State and local housing departments and nonprofit organizations that provide housing services for individuals with disabilities;
- Individuals with ASD, parents of individuals with ASD, and representatives from advocacy groups that focus on individuals with ASD; and
- Health care providers.

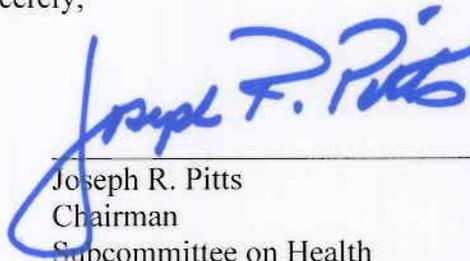
We also ask you to consult the officials of the federal government responsible for overseeing disability services at each of the following departments and agencies: (A) Department of Health and Human Services, including the Administration for Children and Families, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, and Administration for Community Living; (B) Department of Education; (C) Department of Housing and Urban Development; (D) Department of Labor; (E) Department of Justice; (F) Department of Transportation; and (G) any other federal departments and agencies determined appropriate by the Comptroller General.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions, please contact Brenda Destro or Katie Novaria with the Committee on Energy and Commerce at (202) 225-2927.

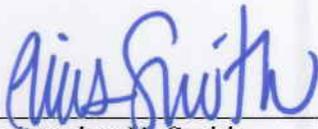
Sincerely,



Fred Upton
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce



Joseph R. Pitts
Chairman
Subcommittee on Health



Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress