Public Comment 2:

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the proposed information collection for the Survey to Promote Resources and Opportunities for aUtistic Teens and Young Adults (SPROUT). As a parent of two children with autism who are now young adults, I have personally experienced many of the challenges that families face as children with autism transition into adolescence and adulthood. For this reason, I believe that collecting longitudinal data on healthcare utilization, service needs, and vocational and social outcomes is extremely important and has practical public health value.

One of the biggest challenges families face is the transition from pediatric services to adult services. Many supports available during childhood become much harder to access in adulthood, and families often struggle to navigate healthcare systems, insurance coverage, employment services, and independent living support. Collecting data on these issues will help identify service gaps and may inform future programs, funding decisions, and provider education.

I also agree that it is important to collect data on co-occurring conditions such as anxiety, sleep disorders, gastrointestinal issues, and attention difficulties, as these conditions often have a significant impact on quality of life and healthcare utilization for individuals with autism and their families. Understanding these needs can help improve healthcare planning and provider training.

In terms of burden, the estimated time to complete the surveys appears reasonable, especially given the importance of the information being collected. However, I would recommend that the CDC ensure surveys are easy to complete, available electronically, and written in clear language to reduce the burden on families and young adults who complete them.

Overall, I support this proposed data collection because it addresses an important gap in understanding the long-term needs of autistic adolescents and youn adults. The information collected has the potential to improve public health programs,

healthcare services, and support systems for individuals with autism and their families.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this proposed information collection.

[This comment is submitted as part of the notice-and-comment process required under the Administrative Procedure Act and the Paperwork Reduction Act, which allow the public and individuals affected by proposed data collection to provide input before approval is granted]

Sincerely,

Response to Public Comment 2: Thank you for your comment and for your support of this project.