

I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN
RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No.	Sponsor	Title	Date Intro	Date of Presentation	Date Adopted	Date Referred	Referred to	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	NOTES
151-36 (LS)	Telena Cruz Nelson	Relative to expressing the utmost support of <i>I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guáhan</i> for H.R. 1652, the "VOCA Fix to Sustain the Crime Victims Fund Act of 2021" introduced by the Honorable Representative Jerrold Nadler; and through its passage, U.S. Public Law 117-27, which secures funding to the Crime Victims Fund, to waive matching requirements, and for other purposes of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA).	8/18/21 2:00 p.m.							

I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2021 (FIRST) Regular Session

Resolution No.151-36 (LS)

Introduced by:

Telena Cruz Nelson 

Relative to expressing the utmost support of *I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan* for H.R. 1652, the “VOCA Fix to Sustain the Crime Victims Fund Act of 2021” introduced by the Honorable Representative Jerrold Nadler; and through its passage, U.S. Public Law 117-27, which secures funding to the Crime Victims Fund, to waive matching requirements, and for other purposes of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA).

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN***
2 ***GUÅHAN*:**

3 **WHEREAS**, the mission of the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) is to enhance
4 the capacity to assist and guide crime victims and to provide leadership in changing
5 attitudes, policies, and practices in ways that will promote justice and healing for all
6 crime victims; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the Crime Victims Fund, a major funding source for victim services
8 throughout the nation, and established by the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) of 1984,
9 supports thousands of programs annually invested in victim compensation and
10 assistance in all fifty (50) states and U.S. territory including Guam, American Samoa,
11 the Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands (CNMI), the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico,
12 and the United States Virgin Islands (USVI); and

1 **WHEREAS**, VOCA also provides training and technical assistance, publications
2 and products, and other capacity-building programs designed to enhance the skills of
3 those who provide services to victims and their families in the immediate aftermath of
4 crime and supporting them as they rebuild their lives; and raise awareness about
5 victims’ issues, promotes compliance with victims’ rights and law; and

6 **WHEREAS**, to its uniqueness, the Crime Victims Fund, is primarily composed
7 of criminal fines and penalties, special assessments, and bond forfeitures from
8 convicted federal offenders and not from tax-payers dollars; and federal revenue from
9 gifts, donations, and bequests by private parties; and

10 **WHEREAS**, authorized in 1984, the first eight (8) years of the Crime Victims
11 Fund, placed an annual cap that could be deposited into the fund which varied from
12 \$100 million to \$150 million; and in 1993, the cap was lifted; and

13 **WHEREAS**, due to large fluctuations in deposits, Congress placed a cap on
14 funds available for distribution also known obligations in Fiscal Year 2000, intended to
15 maintain the fund as a stable source of support for future victim services; and Fiscal
16 Years 2000 – 2018, the annual cap varied from \$500 million to more than \$4 billion;
17 and

18 **WHEREAS**, as of 2020, the U.S. Attorneys’ Offices, federal courts, and the
19 Federal Bureau of Prisons collected for the fund balance of over \$6 billion dollars which
20 included deposits also known as receipts from federal criminal fines and penalties,
21 forfeited bail bonds, and special assessment; and in Fiscal year 2020, the cap was set at
22 \$2.641 billion dollars; and

23 **WHEREAS**, the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Compensation Formula
24 grant award, which provides funds from the Crime Victims Fund to enhance state victim
25 compensation payments and provide financial assistance to eligible crime victims.
26 Guam and in conjunction with the Office of Attorney General Guam, was awarded

1 nearly one hundred twenty-eight thousand dollars (\$128,000.00) in Fiscal Years 2018
2 and 2020; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Assistance Formula
4 grant award, which provides funds from the Crime Victims Fund to enhance crime
5 victim services and the VOCA assistance funds are awarded by the state to local
6 community-based and non-profit organizations that provide direct services to crime
7 victims and their families. Guam and in conjunction with the Office of the Attorney
8 General Guam, was awarded nearly four million two hundred thirty-seven thousand and
9 three hundred seventy dollars (\$4,237,370.00) in Fiscal Years 2018, 2019 and 2020;
10 and

11 **WHEREAS**, U.S. Public Law 117-27, which adds a new source of revenue for
12 the Crime Victims Fund, makes changes to the formula grants, increases compensation
13 payments percentage from sixty percent (60%) to seventy-five percent (75%) to crime
14 victims in the prior fiscal year; and it waives matching requirements in which state’s
15 victim assistance formula grants during and for one (1) year after a pandemic related
16 national emergency and pursuant to the policy established by the reporting state; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the common goal of the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) and
18 the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) is to reach out with a compassionate, skilled, and
19 effective response to victims who have suffered physical, sexual, emotional, and
20 financial harm as a result of crime; now therefore, be it

21 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'trentai Sais Na*
22 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, to express the
23 utmost support of *I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan* for H.R. 1652, the
24 “VOCA Fix to Sustain the Crime Victims Fund Act of 2021” introduced by the
25 Honorable Representative Jerrold Nadler; and through its passage, U.S. Public Law
26 117-27, which secures funding to the Crime Victims Fund, to waive matching

1 requirements, and for other purposes of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA); and be it
2 further

3 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the
4 adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the Honorable
5 Joseph Biden, President of the United States of America; to the Honorable Kamala
6 Harris, Vice President of the United States of America; to the Honorable Michael F.Q.
7 San Nicolas, Guam Delegate Representative of the U.S. Congress; to the Honorable
8 Jerrold Nadler, New York Delegate Representative of the U.S. Congress; to the
9 Honorable Leevin Camacho, Attorney General of Guam; to the Honorable Merrick B.
10 Garland, U.S. Attorney General; to Kristina Rose, Director of the Office for Victims of
11 Crime (OVC); to Dr. Julie Ulloa-Heath, Executive Director of Guam Victim Advocates
12 Reaching Out (VARO); to Leinani Nahalowa’a, Program Manager of Guam Alee
13 Women’s Shelter; to Diana Nucum, Executive Director of Guam Erica’s House; to
14 Theresa Arriola, Director of Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center – Healing
15 Hearts; to Melanie Brennan, Director of Guam Department of Youth Affairs; to Arthur
16 San Agustin, Director of Guam Public Health and Social Services; and to the Honorable
17 Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF
I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE DAY
OF AUGUST 2021.**

THERESE M. TERLAJE
Speaker

AMANDA L. SHELTON
Legislative Secretary