


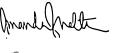
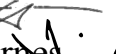

I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUĀHAN
RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No.	Sponsor	Title	Date Intro	Date of Presentation	Date Adopted	Date Referred	Referred to	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	NOTES
152-36 (LS)	Telena Cruz Nelson Amanda L. Shelton Clynton E. Ridgell Tina Rose Muña Barnes	Relative to expressing the utmost support of <i>I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan GuĀhan</i> for H.R. 3985, the "Averting Loss of Life and Injury by Expediting SIVs Act of 2021" or the "Allies Act of 2021" introduced by the Honorable Representative Jason Crow; and through its passage, amends the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 to expedite the special immigrant visa process for certain Afghan allies, and for other purposes.	8/23/21 8:00 a.m.							

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

Resolution No. 152-36 (LS)

Introduced by:

Telena Cruz Nelson 
Amanda L. Shelton 
Clvnton E. Ridgell 
Tina Rose Muna Barnes 

Relative to expressing the utmost support of *I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan* for H.R. 3985, the “Averting Loss of Life and Injury by Expediting SIVs Act of 2021” or the “Allies Act of 2021” introduced by the Honorable Representative Jason Crow; and through its passage, amends the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 to expedite the special immigrant visa process for certain Afghan allies, and for other purposes.

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

3 **WHEREAS**, the United States has a long history in accepting refugees,
4 beginning in 1891 when Congress established the Bureau of Immigration to manage the
5 admission of immigrants to include refugees with many changes through the years in
6 which refugees were accepted during the Mexican Revolution and World War II, and
7 by presidential direction or legislation of various acts of congress; and

8 **WHEREAS**, following 9/11, the department overseeing the refugee processing
9 became known as the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) with a

1 special division known as the Refugee Corps which travels around the world to
2 interview and process refugee applicants; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 was established to
4 provide Special Immigrant Visas (SIV) to Afghans who have worked as translators or
5 interpreters, or who were employed by, or on behalf of, the U.S. government in
6 Afghanistan, and whose lives are now threatened because of their work in support of
7 the U.S. mission and these SIVs, which give the equivalent resettlement benefits for
8 refugees, have allowed our wartime allies to resettle in the United States and were
9 designed to provide only 7,500 visas over five (5) years and over the course of many
10 years with extensions having been made to increase the number of SIVs available to
11 Afghan refugees; and

12 **WHEREAS**, with the announcement of President Joseph Biden in April of 2021
13 of the end of the U.S. military mission in Afghanistan and the plan of complete
14 drawdown of military personnel by September 11, 2021, on August 14, 2021 he
15 announced the authorization of the deployment of U.S. troops to ensure an orderly and
16 safe drawdown of U.S. personnel, other allied personnel and the safe evacuation of
17 Afghans who assisted the U.S. military personnel during the mission and those of
18 special risk from the Taliban advance; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the Emergency Security Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021
20 authorized 8,000 additional Special Immigrant Visas (SIVs) for Afghan refugees that
21 meet the criteria of the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009; and

22 **WHEREAS**, the “Averting Loss of Life and Injury by Expediting SIVs Act of
23 2021” or the “Allies Act of 2021” is intended to increase this number of SIVs and
24 relaxes certain qualifications for such visas in which the numerical limitations only
25 apply to the principle applicant and not any accompanying spouse or child and the act
26 also eliminates the requirement for each applicant to submit a statement of credible
27 threat; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the applicant who performed duties for the U.S. military personnel
2 stationed with the NATO mission, need to meet the requirement that they were
3 performing duties that qualified as sensitive and trusted duties, be eliminated and if the
4 applicant passes away before the application process was granted, the surviving spouse
5 and child shall remain eligible to receive a visa under that application, as the current
6 eligibility of spouse and child is only valid if the applicant was approved prior to their
7 passing; and

8 **WHEREAS**, given the volatile situation within Afghanistan and with the
9 advancement of the Taliban throughout the country, with the country in crisis and the
10 short timeline for U.S. military personnel to drawdown from the country; the Afghan
11 allies are of urgent need for an increasing number of SIVs made available to them and
12 for the processing of these SIVs be as expeditious as possible; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Guam has had a history of being a safe haven for those who have
14 experienced a great need for shelter from the storm of war and violent conflict when
15 during Operation New Life of 1975 in which then Governor Ricardo Bordallo
16 welcomed approximately 112,000 Vietnam refugees with as many as 50,430 of them
17 being sheltered on island at a given time from April through September of that year;
18 and when during Operation Pacific Haven of 1996, 6,600 Kurdish refugees fled from
19 northern Iraq and were transported in a humanitarian effort to Guam where they began
20 the asylum process in a safe environment away from the imminent threat of violence
21 against them; and be it

22 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'trentai Sais Na*
23 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, to express the
24 utmost support of *I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan* for H.R. 3985, the
25 “Averting Loss of Life and Injury by Expediting SIVs Act of 2021” introduced by the
26 Honorable Representative Jason Crow; and be it further

1 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the
2 adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the Honorable
3 Joseph Biden, President of the United States of America; to the Honorable Kamala
4 Harris, Vice President of the United States of America; to the Honorable Michael F.Q.
5 San Nicolas, Guam Delegate Representative of the U.S. Congress; to the Honorable
6 Jason Crow, Colorado Delegate Representative of the U.S. Congress; to Mister Ur M.
7 Jaddou, Director of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services; and to the
8 Honorable 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