

**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 AUTHOR REPORT FILED	NOTES
215-36 (COR)	Telena Cruz Nelson Tina Rose Muña Barnes Jose "Pedro" Terlaje Joe S. San Agustin Joanne Brown James C. Moylan Mary Camacho Torres	Relative to expressing the utmost support of I Liheslaturan Guåhan (the Guam Legislature) for the passage of H.R. 5606, the "Return Home to Housing Act," which seeks to amend Title 38 of the United States Code to adjust the rate of per diem payments provided by the U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs to grantees that provide services to homeless veterans; and further requesting parity and inclusion of all veterans residing in Guam and in all U.S. territories.	11/29/21 8:37 a.m.		1/28/22	11/30/21 11:41 a.m.	Author	1/19/22 5:00 p.m.	1/24/22 5:02 p.m.	

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

Resolution No. 215-36 (COR)

As amended on the Floor.

Introduced by:

Telena Cruz Nelson
Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Jose "Pedo" Terlaje
Joe S. San Agustin
Joanne Brown
James C. Moylan
Mary Camacho Torres
Amanda L. Shelton
V. Anthony Ada
Frank Blas Jr.
Christopher M. Dueñas
Sabina Flores Perez
Clynton E. Ridgell
Telo T. Taitague
Therese M. Terlaje

Relative to expressing the utmost support of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* (the Guam Legislature) for the passage of H.R. 5606, the "Return Home to Housing Act," which seeks to amend Title 38 of the United States Code to adjust the rate of per diem payments provided by the U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs to grantees that provide services to homeless veterans; and further requesting parity and inclusion of all veterans residing in Guam and in all U.S. territories.

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

3 **WHEREAS, H.R. 5606, known as the "Return Home to Housing Act," was**
4 **introduced in the United States House of Representatives on October 15, 2021 by**

1 Georgia Congresswoman Nikema Williams, and referred to the House Committee on
2 Veterans' Affairs; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the "Return Home to Housing Act," raises the maximum allowable
4 rate that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs can reimburse to service providers for
5 supplying transitional housing to homeless veterans by ensuring they will be adequately
6 reimbursed for their costs. H.R. 5606 will also help housing providers supply more
7 housing to displaced veterans in need; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary authorizes grant
9 funding benefits for homeless veterans, which can assist eligible entities in establishing
10 services and programs by providing outreach, rehabilitative services, vocational
11 counseling, training, and transitional housing assistance to displaced veterans in need.
12 Such grant funding benefits support housing retention for veterans who were previously
13 homeless and are transitioning to permanent housing; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem (GPD) program
15 established in 2010, creates transitional housing programs through awarding grants to
16 fund projects that offer communities a way to provide housing and other services to
17 homeless veterans. Grantees work closely with an assigned liaison who monitors the
18 services the grantees offer to veterans and provide direct assistance. Grants from the
19 GPD program usually consist of a capped per diem payment from Veterans Affairs to
20 community organizations; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the proposed legislation would adjust the rate of per diem payments
22 originally from one hundred fifteen percent (115%) to two hundred percent (200%) of
23 the rate authorized for state homes for domiciliary care; and in the case of services
24 furnished to a homeless veteran who is placed in housing that will become permanent

1 housing for the veteran upon termination of the furnishing of such services to such
2 veteran, the maximum proposed rate of per diem authorized would be adjusted from
3 one hundred fifty percent (150%) to two hundred percent (200%); and

4 **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs – Grant and Per Diem
5 Program (VA-GPD) is offered annually to fund entities providing services to unhoused
6 veterans; to promote the developmental and provision of supportive housing and
7 services with the goal of assisting veterans who are experiencing homelessness to
8 achieve residential stability; to increase skill levels and/or income; and to obtain greater
9 self-determination and to ease transitions back into society; and

10 **WHEREAS**, on September 3, 2021, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs –
11 Grant and Per Diem Program (VA-GPD) published a Capital Grant Notice of Funding
12 Opportunity (NOFO) announcing the availability of grant funding of approximately \$75
13 Million Dollars for the renovation, acquisition or construction of GPD transitional
14 housing to improve personal safety for veterans, reduce risks associated with close
15 quarters living, and increase the availability of individual unit style transitional housing;
16 and

17 **WHEREAS**, the CARES Act, allocated additional funding to the V.A. in support
18 of the global COVID-19 pandemic efforts allowing the U.S. Secretary of Veterans
19 Affairs, to temporarily waive the cap on per diem payments to eligible entities; and as
20 of October 1, 2021, the maximum per diem rate for all transitional housing (Per Diem
21 Only, Transition in Place, and Special Need) under the V.A. Grant and Per Diem (VA-
22 GPD) Program is One Hundred Fifty-two Dollars and Seventy-three Cents (\$152.73)
23 and the maximum Service Center rate is Nineteen Dollars and Nine Cents (\$19.09); and

1 the maximum amount payable under the per diem is Fifty Dollars and Ninety-one Cents
2 (\$50.91) per day per veteran housed; and

3 **WHEREAS**, H.R. 5606, the “Return Home to Housing Act,” proposes
4 adjustments to the rate per diem payments provided by the United States Department of
5 Veterans Affairs Secretary for services furnished to homeless veterans to support the
6 additional operating costs associated with serving unhoused veterans in response to an
7 emergency with safe isolation spaces during a state of emergency; and the proposed
8 increased rate of per diem payments would also provide the assistance required for
9 safety and survival in response to an emergency; now therefore, be it

10 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on
11 behalf of the people of Guam, express the utmost support of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* for
12 the passage of H.R. 5606, the “Return Home to Housing Act,” which seeks to amend
13 Title 38 of the United States Code to adjust the rate of per diem payments provided by
14 the U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs to grantees that provide services to homeless
15 veterans; and does further request parity and inclusion of all veterans residing in Guam
16 and in all U.S. territories; and be it further

17 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the
18 adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the Honorable
19 Joseph Biden, President of the United States of America; to the Honorable Kamala
20 Harris, Vice President of the United States of America; to the Honorable Nancy Pelosi,
21 Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives; to the Honorable Congresswoman Nikema
22 Williams, Georgia Representative; to the Honorable Michael F.Q. San Nicolas, Guam
23 Delegate, U.S. House of Representatives; to Denis Richard McDonough, U.S. Secretary
24 of Veterans Affairs; to Monica Diaz, Executive Director of Veterans Health

1 Administration – Homeless Programs Office; to P. Tim Aguon, SMSgt, USAF (ret),
2 Director of the Guam Veterans Affairs Office; to Aja Cruz Ramos, President of
3 Operations of WestCare Pacific Islands; to Christina Cruz, Lead Veterans Advocate,
4 Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF) of WestCare Pacific Islands; and to
5 the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE 28TH DAY OF JANUARY 2022.



THERESE M. TERLAJE

Speaker



AMANDA L. SHELTON

Legislative Secretary