

I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2022 (SECOND) Regular Session
VOTING RECORD

Resolution No. 315-36 (LS As amended by the Author; and further amended on the Floor.	Speaker Antonio R. Unpingco Legislative Session Hall Guam Congress Building June 2, 2022					
NAME	Aye	Nay	Not Voting/ Abstained	Out During Roll Call	Absent	Excused
Senator V. Anthony Ada	✓					
Senator Frank Blas Jr.	✓					
Senator Joanne Brown	✓					
Senator Christopher M. Dueñas	✓					
Senator James C. Moylan	✓					
Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes	✓					
Senator Telen Cruz Nelson	✓					
Senator Sabina Flores Perez	✓					
Senator Clynton E. Ridgell					✓	✓
Senator Joe S. San Agustin	✓					
Senator Amanda L. Shelton					✓	✓
Senator Telo T. Taitague	✓					
Senator Jose "Pedo" Terlaje					✓	✓
Speaker Therese M. Terlaje	✓					
Senator Mary Camacho Torres					✓	✓

TOTAL

11

0

4

4

Aye

Nay

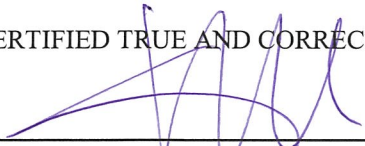
Not Voting/
Abstained

Out During
Roll Call

Absent

Excused

CERTIFIED TRUE AND CORRECT:



 RENNAE V. C. MENO
 Clerk of the Legislature

I = Pass

I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2022 (SECOND) Regular Session

Resolution No. 315-36 (LS)

As amended by the Author; and further amended on the Floor.

*

Introduced by:

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

Relative to expressing the utmost support of *I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* (the 36th Guam Legislature) for the passage of H.R. 6675, the “Independent VA Audit Act,” which directs the U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into an agreement with a non-governmental entity to conduct an audit of the healthcare system of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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

3 **WHEREAS,** the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs’ benefits and
4 healthcare services include, but are not limited, treating illnesses and injuries, short-

1 term and long-term medical care, and dental and vision care; and Veterans Affairs
2 (VA) healthcare benefits and services help prevent future health problems, improve
3 their ability to function, and enhance their quality of life; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the eligibility to receive VA benefits and healthcare services are
5 granted if you have served in the active military: Army, Air Force, Coast Guard,
6 Marines, Navy, and Space Force, and to include the Korean War and Vietnam War
7 veterans who have served in Vietnam or the Republic of Korea as a member of the
8 Armed Forces at any time during the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and
9 ending on May 7, 1975. Other eligibility includes those who have served after
10 September 7, 1980, or entered active duty after October 16, 1981; or a current or
11 former member of the Reserves; and

12 **WHEREAS**, on February 9, 2022, the *Independent VA Audit Act* was
13 introduced in the 117th U.S. House of Representatives by Arizona Congressman
14 Paul Gosar as H.R. 6675, which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs;
15 and

16 **WHEREAS**, the *Independent VA Audit Act* directs the U.S. Secretary of
17 Veterans Affairs to seek to enter into an agreement with a non-governmental entity
18 to conduct an audit of the healthcare system of the Department of Veterans Affairs;
19 and

20 **WHEREAS**, *I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* (the 36th Guam
21 Legislature) finds that the passage of H.R. 6675 would greatly benefit Guam
22 veterans who seek healthcare services through the Guam Veterans Affairs Office,
23 pursuant to CFR Title 38 of the United States Code for Veterans Benefits, which
24 assists in the establishment of all claims and entitlements; and

25 **WHEREAS**, the Guam Veterans Affairs Office (GVAO) continues its efforts
26 to increase veterans access to benefits and services, and they have addressed
27 disabling healthcare issues with the backlog of their clinics. As an advocate, GVAO

1 has focused on striving to earn the trust and confidence of Guam’s veterans and their
2 families in a continuing effort in the processing of their claims; and

3 **WHEREAS**, *I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* (the 36th Guam
4 Legislature) further finds that the passage of H.R. 6675, the *Independent VA Audit*
5 *Act*, would alleviate long delays and backlogs to receive appointment availability for
6 hospital care and medical services; and

7 **WHEREAS**, veterans using healthcare services at the Department of
8 Veterans Affairs, in both local and state clinics, face potential barriers to their earned
9 benefits and services, particularly healthcare. Several perceptions of healthcare
10 service barriers hinder full access to necessary resources of the VA’s benefits and
11 services; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the geographical access in which traveling long distances for
13 healthcare services can represent a significant barrier to obtaining needed services.
14 Oftentimes, veterans live far from the nearest VA Medical Center, and the
15 geographical distance between primary and specialty care services delivery also
16 remains a continued concern over providing medical care to patients in sparsely
17 populated areas; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the lack of necessary financial resources, such as health
19 insurance, represents one of the many barriers to access much-needed patient care.
20 The presence of copayments and decisions about inclusion or exclusion of priority
21 services and benefits continue to be the issues burdening the patient in receiving the
22 proper patient care and full access to the VA healthcare system; and

23 **WHEREAS**, the cultural differences and expectations may also hinder
24 healthcare access. Ethnic or socioeconomic factors contribute to financial and
25 geographical barriers that can arise on the basis of ethnicity, socioeconomic status,
26 gender, and/or age. The delivery of communication styles between the veteran

1 patient and the healthcare provider can sometimes result in significant difficulties in
2 obtaining the care they need or desire; and

3 **WHEREAS**, healthcare services should be geographically available,
4 affordable, and culturally accessible; and the timeliness in receiving necessary
5 healthcare services and other needed resources such as long appointment wait times
6 and available treatment can lead to disruption in patient care, and is another notable
7 barrier and a delay in receiving proper treatment; and therefore, *I Mina'trentai Sais*
8 *Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* (the 36th Guam Legislature) supports the passage of H.R.
9 6675, the *Independent VA Audit Act*, which seeks a third-party private auditor to
10 conduct an independent audit of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs,
11 both state and local offices, healthcare system, which would increase transparency
12 and provide the VA an unbiased, thorough plan to address and correct these
13 unsatisfactory delays in obtaining proper and reasonable healthcare services granted
14 to our nation’s veterans; now therefore, be it

15 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* (the 36th
16 Guam Legislature) does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, express its utmost
17 support for the passage of H.R. 6675, the “Independent VA Audit Act,” which
18 directs the U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into an agreement with a non-
19 governmental entity to conduct an audit of the healthcare system of the Department
20 of Veterans Affairs; and be it further

21 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to,
22 the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the
23 Honorable Joseph Biden, President of the United States; to the Honorable Kamala
24 Harris, Vice President of the United States; to the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker
25 to the United States House of Representatives; to the Honorable Congressman Paul
26 Gosar, Arizona Delegate to the United States House of Representative; to the
27 Honorable Congressman Michael F.Q. San Nicolas, Guam Delegate to the United

- 1 States House of Representatives; and to the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I*
- 2 *Maga'hågan Guåhan*.

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

THERESE M. TERLAJE
Speaker

AMANDA L. SHELTON
Legislative Secretary