

I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2012 (SECOND) Regular Session

Resolution No. 355-31 (LS)

Introduced by:

Aline A. Yamashita, Ph.D.

T. C. Ada

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B. J.F. Cruz

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Adolpho B. Palacios, Sr.

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Relative to commending and acknowledging those affected by autism, and their families, for their sacrifice and dedication to bettering the lives of their children; and to further commending the Autism Community Together (ACT) for their efforts to promote autism awareness, on the observance of the month of April 2012 as “*Autism Awareness Month*”.

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

3 **WHEREAS,** autism is a complex developmental disability that typically
4 appears during the first three (3) years of a person's life, and affects the ability to

1 communicate and interact with others; and

2 **WHEREAS**, autism is defined by a certain set of behaviors and is a "spectrum
3 disorder" that affects individuals differently and to varying degrees; and

4 **WHEREAS**, autism is four (4) times more prevalent in boys than in girls, and
5 it knows no racial, ethnic, or social boundaries; and

6 **WHEREAS**, there is no known single cause for autism, but increased
7 awareness and funding can help families today; and

8 **WHEREAS**, in December 2009, the Centers for Disease Control and
9 Prevention issued its autism prevalence report and concluded that the prevalence of
10 autism had risen to one (1) in every one hundred ten (110) births in the United States,
11 and to almost one (1) in seventy (70) boys; and

12 **WHEREAS**, thirteen million (13,000,000) American families are now living
13 with the effects of autism spectrum disorder, and the Autism Society currently
14 estimates that the lifetime cost of caring for a child with autism ranges from Three
15 Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$3,5000,000) to Five Million Dollars
16 (\$5,000,000); and

17 **WHEREAS**, the United States faces almost Ninety Billion Dollars
18 (\$90,000,000,000) annually in costs for autism which, together with appropriate
19 education and intervention, are vital to the future growth and development of
20 individuals with autism; and

21 **WHEREAS**, through the increased awareness, and the services available to
22 individuals with autism, the lives of our friends with autism can be made easier, while
23 those without autism can expand their understanding of the needs and challenges that
24 individuals with autism are experiencing; and

25 **WHEREAS**, parents, support groups, researchers, and professionals have
26 dedicated years of service in their ongoing efforts to advocate for the rights, humane

1 treatment, and appropriate education of all persons with autism; and in order to
2 highlight the growing need for concern and awareness about autism, the Autism
3 Society has been celebrating "National Autism Awareness Month" since the 1970s in
4 the United States, recognizing the month of April as a time of special opportunity to
5 educate the public about autism and issues within the autism community; and

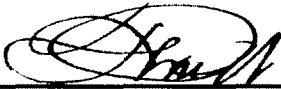
6 **WHEREAS**, a proclamation was signed declaring April 2012 as *Autism*
7 *Awareness Month*, when every resident of Guam is invited to participate in activities
8 that educate and promote awareness of autism spectrum disorders that affect members
9 of our community and their families; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Autism Community Together (ACT), formed in January 2004, is
11 spearheading an awareness effort in order to educate parents, professionals and the
12 general public about autism and its effects; and various activities are being
13 coordinated throughout the month of April 2012 to further these goals, which includes
14 the autism families riding the trolley from GPO to the Governor's Office for the
15 Proclamation signing, followed by a lunch at Chuck E. Cheese; a display and fair at
16 the *Agaña* Shopping Center with approximately forty (40) vendors participating, to
17 include education, employment, career, and many related service agencies; a gaming
18 competition; and a family potluck picnic at *Asan* Beach Park; now therefore, be it

19 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby,
20 on behalf of the people of Guam, commend and acknowledge those affected by
21 autism, and their families, for their sacrifice and dedication to bettering the lives of
22 their children and others living with autism; and to further commending the Autism
23 Community Together (ACT) for their efforts to promote autism awareness, and on the
24 observance of the month of April 2012 as "*Autism Awareness Month*"; and be it
25 further

1 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to,
2 the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Ms.
3 Evelyn Claros, President, Autism Community Together; to Ms. Lourdes A. Mesa,
4 Vice-President, Autism Community Together; to Ms. Mary Cruz, Secretary, and
5 Rindraty Celes-Limtiaco, Treasurer and Co-founder, Autism Community Together;
6 and to the Honorable Edward J.B. Calvo, *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE 15TH DAY OF MARCH 2012.



JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed.D.
Speaker



TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
Legislative Secretary