

*I MINA'TRENTAI DOS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN*  
2013 (FIRST) Regular Session

2013 FEB - 4 PM  
4:26 pm

Resolution No. 33-32 (COR)

Introduced by:

FRANK B. AGUON JR.

V. ANTHONY ADA  
S. CAUS  
TR. MUNA BARROS S. OF INT. B.

Relative to urging the United States Congress to pass the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013, in order to continue protecting the safety of women and children across the United States and ensure the provision of necessary services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

1 BE IT RESOLVED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI DOS NA LIHESLATURAN*  
2 *GUÁHAN*:

3 WHEREAS, it is the belief of this government that securing and  
4 protecting the safety of women is a vital pillar of maintaining a healthy and  
5 progressive society; and

6 WHEREAS, the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 ("VAWA 1994")  
7 was signed into law by President Bill Clinton on September 13th, 1994,  
8 creating for the first time a federal framework for the definition, prosecution,  
9 and prevention of crimes against women, domestic violence crimes, and  
10 crimes of sexual assault; and

11 WHEREAS, VAWA 1994 was passed with bipartisan support by both  
12 the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives; and

1           **WHEREAS**, VAWA 1994 delineated federal prosecution of interstate  
2 domestic violence and sexual assault crimes and guaranteed the interstate  
3 enforcement of protection orders related to such crimes; and

4           **WHEREAS**, VAWA 1994 united efforts by the criminal justice system,  
5 the social services system, and the non-profit sector to provide community-  
6 centric means of preventing and addressing domestic violence and sexual  
7 assault, supporting the work of domestic violence and rape crisis centers, and  
8 other similar organizations; and

9           **WHEREAS**, VAWA 1994 encouraged nationwide legislation addressing  
10 domestic violence and sexual assault on the state level, with 660 such statutes  
11 passed since VAWA 1994's enactment; and

12           **WHEREAS**, VAWA 1994 was reauthorized on October 28, 2000 as the  
13 the Violence Against Women Act of 2000 ("VAWA 2000");

14           **WHEREAS**, VAWA 2000 was signed into law by President Bill Clinton  
15 and received overwhelmingly bipartisan support in the United States  
16 Congress, passing the United States House of Representatives with a 371-1  
17 vote and the United States Senate with a 95-0 vote; and

18           **WHEREAS**, VAWA 2000 strengthened VAWA 1994 by expanding  
19 definitions to include dating violence and stalking, supporting programs that  
20 provided legal assistance, and establishing further protections for immigrant  
21 victims; and

1           **WHEREAS**, VAWA 2000 was reauthorized on January 5, 2006 as the  
2 Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of  
3 2005 (VAWA 2005); and

4           **WHEREAS**, VAWA 2005, as its forebears, received widespread  
5 bipartisan support in both houses of the 109th United States Congress and  
6 was signed into law by President George W. Bush on January 5th, 2006; and

7           **WHEREAS**, VAWA 2005 expanded protections and enhanced programs  
8 for low-income, minority, and victims with disabilities; encouraged the  
9 adoption of preventative strategies; provided federal funding for rape crisis  
10 centers; and broadened certain provisions to include teenagers and children;  
11 and

12           **WHEREAS**, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2012  
13 ("VAWA 2012") was passed by the United States Senate on April 26th, 2012  
14 and was intended to reauthorize VAWA 2005, receiving bipartisan support  
15 with a vote of 68-31, which included the voting support of every Republican  
16 woman in the United States Senate; and

17           **WHEREAS**, VAWA 2012 includes, amongst other safeguards,  
18 protection of additional minority groups such as Native Americans, college  
19 students, illegal immigrants and gay, lesbian, and transgender victims of  
20 domestic violence; and

1           **WHEREAS**, the United States House of Representatives blocked the  
2 Senate bill and passed its own version on May 16th, 2012, rejecting the  
3 protection of such minority groups; and

4           **WHEREAS**, the House version of the bill was passed largely along party  
5 lines, with 216 Republicans and 6 Democrats voting 'aye' and 23 Republicans  
6 and 182 Democrats voting 'no'; and

7           **WHEREAS**, as a result of the House's rejection of the Senate bill, the  
8 term of the 113th United States Congress ended without a consolidated  
9 version of the Violence Against Women Act for signing by President Barack  
10 Obama; and

11           **WHEREAS**, as of January 2nd, 2013, the Violence Against Women Act  
12 has officially failed to be reauthorized, for the first time after eighteen (18)  
13 years in effect; and

14           **WHEREAS**, on January 22nd, 2013, Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT)  
15 introduced the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013  
16 ("VAWA 2013"), keeping the provisions for protecting additional minority  
17 victims from the original Senate bill in 2012; and the bill has, as of February  
18 1st, 2013, received enough votes to pass a filibuster and is thus tentatively set  
19 to pass on the Senate floor; and

20           **WHEREAS**, this body believes that reauthorization of the Violence  
21 Against Women Act through VAWA 2013 would be integral in the pursuit of

1 abating domestic violence and sexual assault rates, which have decreased  
2 since the passage of VAWA 1994; and

3       **WHEREAS**, this body believes that providing protection to additional  
4 minority groups is reflective of this body's belief that domestic violence and  
5 sexual assault must be abated regardless of age, race, sexual orientation or  
6 gender; now, therefore, be it

7       **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Trentai Dos na Liheslaturan Guahan*, on behalf of  
8 the people of Guam, urges the United States Congress to pass the Violence  
9 Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013, in order to continue protecting  
10 the safety of women and children across the United States and ensure the  
11 provision of necessary services for victims of domestic violence and sexual  
12 assault.; and be it further

13       **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on  
14 Rules certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and  
15 that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the Honorable Madeline Z.  
16 Bordallo, Guam Delegate to the United States Congress; and to the Honorable  
17 Edward B. Calvo, I Maga'lahren Guahan.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES  
OF *I MINA'TRENTAI DOS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN* ON THE  
\_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF JANUARY 2013.**

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**JUDITH T. WONPAT, Ed D**  
Speaker

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**TINA ROSE MUÑA-BARNES**  
Secretary of the Legislature