

I MINA'BENTE OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2005 (FIRST) Regular Session

Executive Committee Resolution No. 27

~~Resolution No.~~

Introduced by:

Mike Cruz, M.D. *[Signature]*
Rory J. Respicio *[Signature]*
Judith T. Won Pat *[Signature]*

2005 APR 27 11 08 11 AM

Relative to commending and acknowledging those affected by Autism and their families for their sacrifice and dedication to their children, as well as Autism Community Together (ACT) and Autism Society of Guam for their efforts to promote the month of April 2005 as "Autism Awareness Month."

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF

1 BE IT RESOLVED BY I MINA'BENTE OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN
2 GUÅHAN:

3 WHEREAS, April 2005 is the local and national recognized month to
4 celebrate Autism Awareness; and

5 WHEREAS, autism is a severely incapacitating, lifelong disability,
6 resulting in significant impairment of an individual's ability to learn, develop
7 appropriate social skills, understand verbal, nonverbal, and reciprocal
8 communication; and

9 WHEREAS, autism is a spectrum disorder that affects each person
10 differently and to varying degrees of severity; and

11 WHEREAS, autism is four times more prevalent in boys than girls and
12 knows no racial, ethnic, or social boundaries; and

1 **WHEREAS**, family income, lifestyle, and educational levels do not
2 affect the chance of autism's occurrence; and

3 **WHEREAS**, today, autism spectrum disorders is even more common
4 than Downs Syndrome, Diabetes, Muscular Dystrophy, Cystic Fibrosis, and
5 many forms of Childhood Cancer; and

6 **WHEREAS**, there are more than 1,500,000 people with Autism in the
7 United States and approximately 110 individuals with autism on the island of
8 Guam; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the recently released Center for Disease Control and
10 Prevention report found that Autism Spectrum Disorder occurred in one (1) in
11 every 166 children; and

12 **WHEREAS**, accurate, early diagnosis before three years of age, and the
13 resulting appropriate education and intervention are vital to the future
14 growth and development of individuals with autism; and

15 **WHEREAS**, through accountable training, knowledge, materials,
16 programs, increased awareness, and support groups, we will be empowered
17 and ready to meet the challenges of what will be needed to serve the growing
18 population of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders; and

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

1 **WHEREAS**, parents, support groups, researchers, and professionals
2 have dedicated years of service in their ongoing efforts to advocate for the
3 rights, humane treatment, and appropriate education of all persons with
4 autism; and

5 **WHEREAS**, these groups remain committed to their cause setting new
6 standards, researching causes and effects, and educating families, other
7 professionals, and the general public to better understand this lifelong
8 disability; and

9 **WHEREAS**, here on Guam, family support groups like **AUTISM**
10 **COMMUNITY TOGETHER (ACT)** and the **AUTISM SOCIETY OF GUAM**, are
11 dedicated to the ongoing efforts to advocate for the rights and appropriate
12 interventions of all persons with autism; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the **AUTISM COMMUNITY TOGETHER (ACT)**, formed in
14 January 2004, is spearheading an awareness effort in order to educate parents,
15 professionals and the general public about autism and its effects; and

16 **WHEREAS**, various activities are being coordinated throughout the
17 month of April 2005 to commemorate this auspicious event, including a
18 Christian Mass at St. Jude's Church in Sinajana, a display at the Agana
19 Shopping Center and the 2nd Annual ACT Walk/Get-Together at the Ricardo
20 J. Bordallo Governor's Complex in Adelup; and now, therefore, be it

21 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina' Bente Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby,
22 on behalf of the people of Guam, commend and acknowledge those affected

1 by Autism and their families for their sacrifice and dedication to their
2 children, as well as **AUTISM COMMUNITY TOGETHER (ACT)** and **AUTISM**
3 **SOCIETY OF GUAM** for their efforts to promote the month of April 2005 as
4 "*Autism Awareness Month*"; and be it further

5 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Secretary of the
6 Legislature attest the adoption hereof and that copies of the same be thereafter
7 transmitted to Ms. Evelyn Claros, Chairperson, Autism Community Together;
8 to Ms. Rindraty Limtiaco and Mr. Travis Coffman, Co-founders, Autism
9 Community Together; to Ms. Jelly Flores, President, Autism Society of Guam;
10 to the Honorable Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Member of Congress, U.S. House of
11 Representatives; and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan.*

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY I MINA'BENTE OCHO NA
LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE 4th DAY OF APRIL, 2005.

(don't type in the day)

MARK FORBES
Speaker

MIKE CRUZ, M.D.
Chairman, Committee on Health
and Human Services

*do not have his
name on it*

EDWARD J.B. CALVO
Secretary of the Legislature