




I MINA'BENTE OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2006 (SECOND) Regular Session

Resolution No. 128 (LS)

Introduced by:

Mike Cruz, M.D. 
L. F. Kasperbauer 
L. A. Leon Guerrero 

Relative to recognizing and acknowledging those affected by Autism and their families for their sacrifice and dedication to their children, for professionals who have for years advocated and unselfishly cared for individuals with autism, and Autism Community Together (ACT) for their efforts to promote the month of April 2006 as "Autism Awareness Month."

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

3 WHEREAS, April 2006 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, **AUTISM COMMUNITY TOGETHER (ACT)**, a
10 parent support group, is dedicated to the ongoing efforts to advocate for the
11 rights and appropriate interventions of all persons with autism; and

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

16 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina' Bente Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby,
17 on behalf of the people of Guam, recognize and commend those affected by
18 autism and their families for their sacrifice and dedication to their children,
19 for professionals who have for years advocated and unselfishly cared for
20 individuals with autism, and Autism Community Together (ACT) for their
21 efforts to promote the month of April 2006 as "*Autism Awareness Month*";
22 and be it further

1 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Secretary of the
2 Legislature attest to the adoption hereof and that copies of the same be
3 thereafter transmitted to Ms. Evelyn Claros, Chairperson, Autism Community
4 Together; to Ms. Rindraty Limtiaco and Mr. Travis Coffman, Co-founders,
5 Autism Community Together; Ms. Juan Flores, Superintendent of GPSS; Ms.
6 Katrina Celes-Pieper, Associate Superintendent of Special Education, GPSS;
7 and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY I MINA'BENTE OCHO NA
LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE _____ DAY OF _____, 2006.**

MARK FORBES
Speaker

EDWARD J.B. CALVO
Secretary of the Legislature