

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

Resolution No. 128 (LS)

As amended.

Introduced by:

Mike Cruz
L. F. Kasperbauer
L. A. Leon Guerrero
F. B. Aguon, Jr.
J. M.S. Brown
Edward J.B. Calvo
B. J.F. Cruz
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R. J. Respicio
Ray Tenorio
A. R. Unpingco
J. T. Won Pat

Relative to recognizing and acknowledging those affected by autism and their families for their sacrifice and dedication, professionals who have for years advocated and unselfishly cared for individuals with autism, and Autism Community Together (ACT) for its 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 locally and nationally recognized month to
4 celebrate Autism Awareness; and

1 **WHEREAS**, autism is a severely incapacitating, lifelong disability,
2 resulting in significant impairment of an individual's ability to learn, develop
3 appropriate social skills, and understand verbal, nonverbal, and reciprocal
4 communication; and

5 **WHEREAS**, autism is a spectrum disorder that affects each person
6 differently and to varying degrees of severity; and

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

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

11 **WHEREAS**, today, autism spectrum disorders are even more common
12 than Downs Syndrome, Diabetes, Muscular Dystrophy, Cystic Fibrosis, and
13 many forms of childhood cancer; and

14 **WHEREAS**, there are more than one million five hundred thousand
15 (1,500,000) people with autism in the United States and approximately one
16 hundred ten (110) individuals with autism on the island of Guam; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the recently released Center for Disease Control and
18 Prevention report found that autism spectrum disorder occurred in one in
19 every one hundred sixty six (166) children; and

20 **WHEREAS**, accurate, early diagnosis before three (3) years of age, and
21 the resulting appropriate education and intervention are vital to the future
22 growth and development of individuals with autism; and

23 **WHEREAS**, through accountable training, knowledge, materials,
24 programs, increased awareness, and support groups, we will be empowered

1 and ready to meet the challenge of meeting the growing population of
2 individuals with autism spectrum disorders; and

3 **WHEREAS**, through the increased services available to individuals with
4 autism, the lives of our friends with autism can be made easier, while those
5 without autism can expand their understanding of the needs and challenges
6 that individuals with autism experience; and

7 **WHEREAS**, parents, support groups, researchers, and professionals,
8 have dedicated years in their ongoing efforts to advocate for the rights,
9 humane treatment, and appropriate education of all persons with autism; and

10 **WHEREAS**, these groups remain committed to their cause by setting
11 new standards, researching causes and effects, and educating families, other
12 professionals, and the general public to better understand this lifelong
13 disability; and

14 **WHEREAS**, here on Guam, **AUTISM COMMUNITY TOGETHER (ACT)**, a
15 parent support group, is dedicated to advocating for the rights of all persons
16 with autism; and

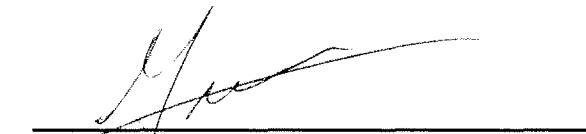
17 **WHEREAS**, **AUTISM COMMUNITY TOGETHER (ACT)**, formed in January
18 2004, is spearheading an effort to educate parents, professionals and the
19 general public about autism and its effects; now, therefore, be it

20 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina' Bente Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby,
21 on behalf of the people of Guam, recognize and commend those affected by
22 autism and their families for their sacrifice and dedication to their children,
23 professionals who have for years advocated and unselfishly cared for
24 individuals with autism, and Autism Community Together (ACT) for its

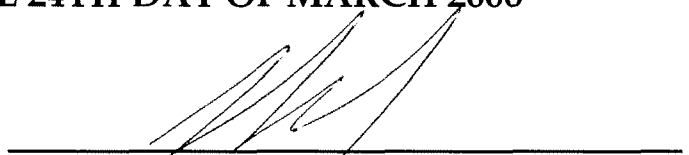
1 efforts to promote the month of April 2006 as "*Autism Awareness Month*";
2 and be it further

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

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'BENTE OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE 24TH DAY OF MARCH 2006



MARK FORBES
Speaker



EDWARD J.B. CALVO
Senator and
Secretary of the Legislature