

I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN

2023 (FIRST) Regular Session

VOTING RECORD

Resolution No. 21-37 (COR)	Speaker Antonio R. Unpingco Legislative Session Hall Guam Congress Building March 30, 2023					
NAME	Aye	Nay	Not Voting/ Abstained	Out During Roll Call	Absent	Excused
Senator Chris Barnett	✓					
Senator Frank Blas, Jr.	✓					
Senator Joanne Brown	✓					
Senator Christopher M. Dueñas	✓					
Senator Thomas J. Fisher	✓					
Senator Jesse A. Lujan	✓					
Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes	✓					
Senator William A. Parkinson	✓					
Senator Sabina Flores Perez	✓					
Senator Roy A. B. Quinata	✓					
Senator Joe S. San Agustin	✓					
Senator Dwayne T. D. San Nicolas	✓					
Senator Amanda L. Shelton	✓					
Senator Telo T. Taitague	✓					
Speaker Therese M. Terlaje	✓					

TOTAL

15

0

Aye

Nay

**Not
Voting/
Abstained**

**Out
During
Roll Call**

Absent

Excused

CERTIFIED TRUE AND CORRECT:



JOAQUIN P. TAITAGUE

Substitute Clerk of the Legislature

I = Pass

I MINA'TRENTAISJETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2023 (FIRST) Regular Session

Resolution No. 21-37 (COR)

Introduced by:

Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Roy A.B. Quinata
William A. Parkinson
Joe S. San Agustin
Jesse A. Lujan
Dwayne T. D. San Nicolas
Frank Blas, Jr.

**RELATIVE TO EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT OF H.R. 256,
INTRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES, WHICH SEEKS TO EXTEND
COVERAGE OF THE SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY
INCOME (SSI) PROGRAM TO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS
WHO RESIDE ON PUERTO RICO, THE UNITED STATES
VIRGIN ISLANDS, GUAM, AND AMERICAN SAMOA.**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF
I MINA'TRENTAISJETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN:

WHEREAS, Katrina Schaller, a Guam resident with a disability, sued the Social Security Administration in December 2018, challenging the inability of Guam residents to receive support payments under the federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program; and

WHEREAS, in June 2020 District Court of Guam Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood ruled the federal SSI program is discriminatory and violated Schaller's constitutional right to equal protection under the law; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the Justice Department appealed Tydingco-Gatewood’s decision to
2 the Ninth Circuit, but the case was paused because the U.S. Supreme Court was hearing
3 a similar case related to a Puerto Rico resident who lost his SSI payments when he
4 relocated from New York; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit granted the federal
6 government’s request to “vacate” the ruling after the plaintiff in the case, Katrina
7 Schaller, died in late 2021, making her ongoing federal lawsuit moot; and

8 **WHEREAS**, on April 21, 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court turned down a bid to
9 allow Puerto Rico residents to claim benefits under the federal government’s main
10 disability insurance program, ruling that the Constitution does not require Congress to
11 offer such payments to residents of the island even though people born there are U.S.
12 citizens; and

13 **WHEREAS**, given the U.S. Supreme Court has opined the granting of any SSI
14 benefits to residents of Puerto Rico, as well as to residents of the U.S. Virgin Islands,
15 Guam and American Samoa, is not a matter for the Court but for the Congress; and

16 **WHEREAS**, H.R. 256 is the latest attempt to extend coverage of the
17 Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Program to qualified individuals who reside on
18 Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam and American Samoa; and

19 **WHEREAS**, similar measures to extend coverage have been introduced by
20 previous Guam Delegates to the U.S. House of Representatives, including former
21 Congressman Michael F.Q. San Nicolas and former Congresswoman Madeleine Z.
22 Bordallo, but the U.S. Congress has yet to extend SSI coverage to residents of U.S.
23 territories; and

24 **WHEREAS**, the continued efforts of Guam’s current Delegate are essential as
25 extending SSI coverage to the people of Guam would aid potentially thousands of

1 residents who are blind, disabled, or sixty-five (65) years of age or older with low
2 incomes and limited resources; now, therefore be it

3 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'trentai Siette Na*
4 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, express its support
5 of H.R. 256, introduced in the United States House of Representatives, which seeks to
6 extend coverage of the Supplemental Security Income program to qualified individuals
7 who reside on Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, and American
8 Samoa; and be it further

9 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules
10 certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of
11 the same be thereafter transmitted to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President of the
12 United States of America; to the Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Speaker of the United
13 States House of Representatives; to the Honorable James C. Moylan, Guam's Delegate
14 to the United States Congress; to the Honorable Jason Smith, Chairman of the U.S.
15 House Ways and Means Committee; and to the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero,
16 *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF
I MINA'TRENTAISJETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE DAY OF
2023.**

THERESE M. TERLAJE
Speaker

Chris Barnett
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

AMANDA L. SHELTON
Legislative Secretary