



I MINA' TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2009 (FIRST) Regular Session


Bill No. 76 (COR)

Introduced by:

Ray Tenorio 

E.J.B. Calvo 

Telo Taitague 

A.B. Palacios, Sr 

AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$10,000) TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASSISTING THE VICTIM ADVOCATES REACHING OUT (VARO) CONTINUE ITS ROLE AS EMERGENCY FIRST RESPONDERS FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT CASES.

MAR 6 2009 3:33 PM

1 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:**

2 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds
3 that Victims Advocates Reaching Out (VARO), a private non-profit organization,
4 began serving victims of violent crimes in 1982. Since the enactment of the
5 Family Violence Act in 1994 and as amended in 1998, VARO has been recognized
6 as First Responders, by local public safety agencies and law enforcement to assist
7 victims of violent crime, family violence, abuse and sexual assault. Since 1994,
8 the relationship between VARO and the law enforcement community has
9 strengthened where organization has become an integral part of victims' services.
10 VARO presently provides 24-hour Free and Confidential services to victims of
11 violent crimes and traumatic events.

12 *I Liheslatura* further finds that since its creation, VARO has relied solely
13 upon grants and private donations for the support of its operations. Over the years,
14 the governmental agencies have increasingly relied on VARO for victims'

1 assistance. Increasingly, as a result of funding shortages within certain assistive
2 agencies, the government has come to rely on VARO to provide longer-term
3 assistive services such as temporary shelter, food, clothing and transportation for
4 victims. As such, VARO expects that the growing workload and demands will
5 exceed their capabilities to raise the funds needed to keep up with the need for their
6 essential services.

7 It is the intent of *I Liheslatura* to provide limited funding assistance VARO,
8 which has demonstrated its abilities, to meet the needs of the community in
9 assisting victims of violence,

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11 **Section 2. Appropriation.** The Sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000)
12 is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Administration
13 for the purpose of assisting the *Victim Advocates Reaching Out* (VARO)
14 organization to provide emergency first responder services for the community.

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16 **Section 3. Memorandum of Understanding.** The Director of Administration
17 shall enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with *Victim Advocates Reaching*
18 *Out* (VARO) that include, but are not limited to, the following:

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20 (1) A list of items or services that can be purchased with the funds appropriated by
21 Section 2 of this Act,

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23 (2) The procedures for procuring the items or services that can be purchased with
24 the funds appropriated by Section 2 of this Act, and

25
26 (3) A requirement that VARO provide a monthly report itemizing the expenditures
27 of the funds appropriated by Section 2 of this Act.