

I MINA'TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2010 (SECOND) Regular Session

Resolution No. 325-30 (COR)

Introduced by:

F. B. Aguon, Jr.
T. C. Ada
V. Anthony Ada
F. F. Blas, Jr.
E. J.B. Calvo
B. J.F. Cruz
J. V. Espaldon
Judith P. Guthertz, DPA
T. R. Muña Barnes
Adolpho B. Palacios, Sr.
v. c. pangelinan
R. J. Respicio
Telo Taitague
Ray Tenorio
Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.

Relative to commending and acknowledging those affected by autism, and their families, for their sacrifice and dedication to bettering the lives of their children; and to commending the Autism Community Together (ACT) and the Autism Society of Guam for their efforts to promote autism awareness; and in the observance of the month of April 2010 as “Autism Awareness Month”.

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF I MINA'**
2 **TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN:**

3 **WHEREAS**, autism is a complex developmental disability that typically
4 appears during the first three (3) years of a person's life and affects their
5 ability to communicate and interact with others; and

6 **WHEREAS**, autism is defined by a certain set of behaviors and is a
7 "spectrum disorder" that affects individuals differently and to varying
8 degrees; and

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

11 **WHEREAS**, there is no known single cause for autism, but increased
12 awareness and funding can help families today; and

13 **WHEREAS**, in December 2009, the Centers for Disease Control and
14 Prevention issued their autism prevalence report and concluded that the
15 prevalence of autism had risen to one (1) in every one hundred ten (110) births
16 in the United States, and to almost one (1) in seventy (70) boys; and

17 **WHEREAS**, thirteen million (13,000,000) American families are now
18 living with the effects of autism spectrum disorder, and the Autism Society
19 currently estimates that the lifetime cost of caring for a child with autism
20 ranges from 3.5 million dollars to 5 million dollars, and that the United States
21 faces almost 90 billion dollars annually in costs for autism; and

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

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

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

12 **WHEREAS**, in order to highlight the growing need for concern and
13 awareness about autism, the Autism Society has been celebrating “National
14 Autism Awareness Month” since the 1970s in the United States, recognizing
15 the month of April as a time of special opportunity to educate the public
16 about autism and issues within the autism community; and

17 **WHEREAS**, on March 29, 2010, the Acting Governor of Guam, the
18 Honorable Michael W. Cruz, M.D., proclaimed April 2010 as *Autism Awareness*
19 *Month*, and urged every resident of Guam to participate in activities that
20 educate and promote awareness of autism spectrum disorders that affect
21 members of our community and their families; and

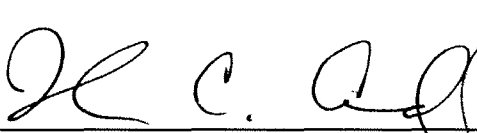
1 **WHEREAS**, the Autism Community Together (ACT), which was
2 formed in January 2004, is spearheading an awareness effort in order to
3 educate parents, professionals and the general public about autism and its
4 effects; and various activities are being coordinated throughout the month of
5 April 2010 to further these goals, including a family day of bowling at
6 Whimsy in *Tamuning*; a display and fair at the Agana Shopping Center; a
7 wave at Skinner Plaza; and a family potluck at the Cliff Hotel; now, therefore,
8 be it

9 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'Trenta Na*
10 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the
11 people of Guam commend and acknowledge those affected by autism, and
12 their families, for their sacrifice and dedication to bettering the lives of their
13 children and others living with autism, as well as the Autism Community
14 Together (ACT) and the Autism Society of Guam for their efforts to promote
15 autism awareness, and in the observance of the month of April 2010 as
16 "Autism Awareness Month"; and be it further

17 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on
18 Rules certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and
19 that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Ms. Evelyn Claros,
20 President, Autism Community Together; to Mr. Travis Coffman, Vice-
21 President, Autism Community Together; to Ms. Rindraty Celes-Limtiaco,
22 Secretary and Co-founder, Autism Community Together; to Ms. Jelly Flores,

- 1 President, Autism Society of Guam; to the Honorable Madeleine Z. Bordallo,
- 2 Member of Congress, U.S. House of Representatives; and to the Honorable
- 3 Felix P. Camacho, *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.

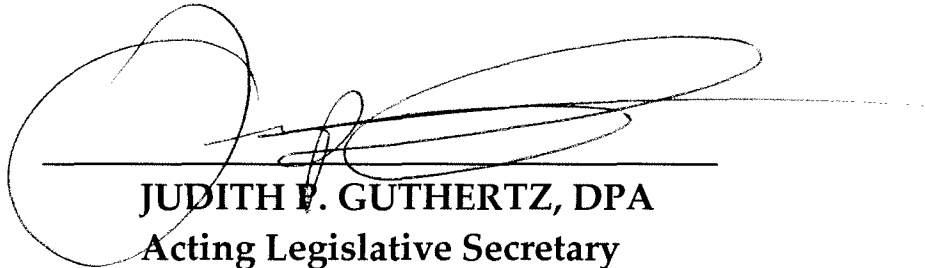
**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES
OF I MINA'TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE 16TH DAY OF
APRIL, 2010.**



THOMAS C. ADA
Acting Speaker



JUDITH P. GUTHERTZ, DPA
Acting Chairperson, Committee on Rules



JUDITH P. GUTHERTZ, DPA
Acting Legislative Secretary