

**I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
RESOLUTIONS**

Resolution No.	Sponsor	Title	Date Intro	Date of Presentation	Date Adopted	Date Referred	Referred to	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	NOTES
86-35 (LS)	Amanda L. Shelton	Relative to recognizing and acknowledging those individuals who are affected by autism, and commending their families for their unconditional love and dedication to bettering the lives of their children, grandchildren, and family members; and to further commending Autism Community Together (ACT) for its efforts to promote awareness and to provide support to families throughout the year, especially during the observance of "Autism Awareness Month" in the month of April 2019, and encouraging our community to rally behind this year's theme - "Get Your Blue on Guam – Support Autism!"	3/26/19 8:22 a.m.	4/2/19 4:30 p.m.						

I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2019 (FIRST) Regular Session

Resolution No. 86-35 (LS)

Introduced by:

Amanda L. Shelton 

Relative to recognizing and acknowledging those individuals who are affected by autism, and commending their families for their unconditional love and dedication to bettering the lives of their children, grandchildren, and family members; and to further commending Autism Community Together (ACT) for its efforts to promote awareness and to provide support to families throughout the year, especially during the observance of “Autism Awareness Month” in the month of April 2019, and encouraging our community to rally behind this year’s theme - “Get Your Blue on Guam – Support Autism!”

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1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN***
2 ***GUÅHAN*:**

3 **WHEREAS**, autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a complex developmental
4 disability that typically appears during the first three (3) years of a child’s life and
5 affects their ability to communicate and interact with others; and, there is no single
6 cause for autism, but increased awareness and funding can help families today; and

7 **WHEREAS**, autism is defined by a certain set of behaviors and is a “spectrum
8 disorder” that affects individuals differently, to varying degrees; and, it knows no racial,
9 ethnic, or social boundaries; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the Center for Disease Control’s Autism and Developmental
11 Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network found that about one (1) in sixty-eight (68)
12 children were identified with ASD based on tracking across multiple areas of the United

1 States. This same data revealed that some characteristics of children with ASD have
2 remained the same – boys were almost five (5) times more likely to be identified with
3 ASD than girls. Today, one (1) in forty-five (45) children will be diagnosed with autism
4 spectrum disorders. More children are diagnosed with ASD than childhood cancer,
5 juvenile diabetes, and pediatric AIDS combined; and

6 **WHEREAS**, caring for a child with ASD can place a heavy economic burden on
7 families and communities. The ADDM Network estimates that it costs at least
8 Seventeen Thousand Dollars (\$17,000) more per year to care for a child with ASD, as
9 compared to a child without ASD. Costs include health care, education, ASD-related
10 therapy, family coordinated services, and caregiver time. Taken together, it is estimated
11 that the total societal costs of caring for children with ASD was more than 11.5 billion
12 Dollars in 2011; and

13 **WHEREAS**, a quarter century ago, a nationwide effort was launched to promote
14 autism awareness, inclusion, and self-determination for all, and assure that each person
15 with ASD is provided the opportunity to achieve the highest possible quality of life.
16 This year the Autism Society wants to go beyond simply promoting autism awareness,
17 by encouraging friends and collaborators to become partners in the movement towards
18 acceptance and appreciation; and

19 **WHEREAS**, parents and family members, support groups, researchers, and
20 professionals have dedicated years of service in their ongoing efforts to advocate for
21 the rights, respect, dignity, humane treatment, and appropriate education of all persons
22 with autism; and, in order to highlight the growing need for concern and awareness
23 about autism, the Autism Community Together (ACT) of Guam has celebrated “Autism
24 Awareness Month” during the month of April, and this year’s theme is: Get Your Blue
25 On Guam - Support Autism!; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the Autism Community Together (ACT), which was formed in
2 January 2004, has continued to spearhead an awareness effort in order to educate
3 parents, professionals, and the general public about autism and its effects; and, various
4 activities are being coordinated throughout the month of April 2019 to further these
5 goals; now, therefore be it

6 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby,
7 on behalf of the people of Guam, recognize and acknowledge those individuals who are
8 affected by autism, and commend their families for their unconditional love and
9 dedication to bettering the lives of their children, grandchildren, and family members;
10 and to further commend the Autism Community Together (ACT) for its efforts to
11 promote awareness and to provide support to families throughout the year, especially
12 during the observance of “Autism Awareness Month” in the month of April 2019, and
13 encouraging our community to rally behind this year’s theme – “Get Your Blue on
14 Guam – Support Autism!” and be it further;

15 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules
16 certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of
17 the same be thereafter transmitted to the Autism Community Together (ACT); Ms.
18 Josephine Blas, President, Autism Community Together, Kristal Flores, Vice President,
19 Autism Community Together, Joanne Perez Zanoni, Secretary, Autism Community
20 Together, Denise Raphael, Treasurer, Autism Community Together, Ms. Monica
21 Limtiaco, Board Member, Autism Community Together, Jennifer Rodriguez, Board
22 Member, Autism Community Together, Ms. Evelyn San Agustin-Claros, Board
23 Member, Autism Community Together and to the Honorable Lourdes Leon Guerrero,
24 *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE DAY OF MONTH 2019.

TINA ROSE MUÑA-BARNES
Speaker

AMANDA L. SHELTON
Legislative Secretary