

I Mina'trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
BILL STATUS

| BILL NO. | SPONSOR | TITLE | DATE INTRODUCED | DATE REFERRED | CMTE REFERRED | PUBLIC HEARING DATE | DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED | FISCAL NOTES | NOTES |
|-------------|--------------------|---|----------------------|---------------|---|----------------------|-----------------------------|---|-------|
| 68-35 (COR) | Therese M. Terlaje | AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$150,000) FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION FOR CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE GUAM AUTISM CENTER. | 3/20/19 9:44 a.m. | 4/1/19 | Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing | 4/15/19 9:00 a.m. | 4/24/19 3:38 p.m. | Request 4/1/19 Fiscal Note: 4/1/19 | |



SENATOR JOE S. SAN AGUSTIN

Chairman, Committee on General Government Operations,
Appropriations and Housing

I Mina' trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guåhan - Thirty-Fifth Guam Legislature

April 22, 2019

The Honorable Tina Rose Muña Barnes

Speaker

I Mina' trentai Singko na Liheslaturan Guåhan

163 Chalan Santo Papa

Hagåtña, Guam 96910

VIA: The Honorable Régine Biscoe Lee

Chairperson, Committee on Rules

PBA

RE: Committee Report on Bill No. 68-35 (COR), As Introduced

Håfa Adai Speaker Barnes:

Transmitted herewith is the Committee Report on **Bill No. 68-35 (COR) As Introduced by Therese M. Terlaje** – “AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$150,000) FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION FOR CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE GUAM AUTISM CENTER.”

Committee votes are as follows:

- C* TO DO PASS
- Ø* TO NOT PASS
- 1* TO REPORT OUT ONLY
- Ø* TO ABSTAIN
- Ø* TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE

RECEIVED
 APR 22 2019
[Signature]
 COMMITTEE ON RULES
 9:10 am.

2019 APR 24 PM 3:38 *[Signature]*

Sincerely,

Joe S. San Agustin



SENATOR JOE S. SAN AGUSTIN
Chairman, Committee on General Government Operations,
Appropriations and Housing
I Mina' trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guåhan - Thirty-Fifth Guam Legislature

COMMITTEE REPORT

Bill No. 68-35 (COR), As Introduced

**Introduced by Senator Therese M.
Terlaje**

**“AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE ONE
HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS
(\$150,000) FROM THE GENERAL FUND
TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
ADMINISTRATION FOR CONTINUED
OPERATION OF THE GUAM AUTISM
CENTER.”**



SENATOR JOE S. SAN AGUSTIN


Chairman, Committee on General Government Operations,
Appropriations and Housing

I Mina' trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guåhan - Thirty-Fifth Guam Legislature

April 19, 2019

MEMORANDUM

To: **All Members**
Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations and Housing

From: **Senator Joe S. San Agustin**
Committee Chairperson 

Subject: **Committee Report on Bill No. 68-35 (COR), As Introduced**

Transmitted herewith for your consideration is the Committee Report on **Bill No. 68-35 (COR), As Introduced** – “An Act to Appropriate One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) from the General Fund to the Department of Administration for Continued Operation of the Guam Autism Center.”

This report includes the following:

- Copy of COR Referral of Bill No. 68-35 (COR)
- Notices of Public Hearing & Other Correspondence
- Copy of the Public Hearing Agenda
- Public Hearing Sign-in Sheet
- Copies of Submitted Testimonies & Supporting Documents
- Committee Report Digest
- Copy of Bill No. 68-35 (COR)
- Fiscal Note for Bill No. 68-35 (COR)
- Funding Availability Note from The Office of Finance and Budget on Bill No. 68-35 (COR)
- Committee Vote Sheet
- Related News Reports

Please take the appropriate action on the attached vote sheet. Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Si Yu'os ma'åse'!

Senator Amanda L. Shelton,
Vice Chairperson

Speaker Tino Rose Muña Barnes,
Member

Vice Speaker Telena Cruz Nelson,
Member

Senator Kelly Marsh (Taitano), Ph.D.,
Member

Senator Sabina Flores Perez
Member

Senator Clynton E. Ridgell
Member



COMMITTEE ON RULES
SENATOR RÉGINE BISCOE LEE, CHAIR
I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
35TH GUAM LEGISLATURE

Senator Joe S. San Agustin,
Member

Senator Jose T. Terlaje,
Member

Senator Therese M. Terlaje,
Member

Senator James C. Moylan,
Member

Senator Mary Camacho Torres,
Member and
Chair, Subcommittee on Protocol

April 1, 2019

MEMO

To: **Rennae Meno**
Clerk of the Legislature
Attorney Julian Aguon
Legislative Legal Counsel

From: **Senator Régine Biscoe Lee**
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

Re: **Referral of Bill No. 68-35 (COR)**

Buenas yan Háfa adai.

As per my authority as Chairperson of the Committee on Rules and subject to §6.01(d)(1), Rule VI of our Standing Rules, I am forwarding the referral of **Bill No. 68-35 (COR)**.

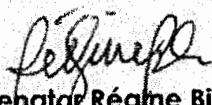
Please ensure that the subject bill is referred to the **Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing**, chaired by Senator Joe S. San Agustin.

I also request that the same be forwarded to the prime sponsor of the subject bill.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Mary Maravilla, Committee on Rules Director at 472-2461.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,


Senator Régine Biscoe Lee
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

I Mina'trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
BILL STATUS

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FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing on Monday, April 15, 2019 at 9AM

1 message

Senator Therese Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>

Fri, Apr 5, 2019 at 2:44 PM

To: Speaker's Office <speaker@guamlegislature.org>, Vice Speaker Telena Cruz Nelson <senatorcnelson@guamlegislature.org>, Office of Senator Shelton Guam Legislature <officeofsenatorshelton@guamlegislature.org>, "Office of Senator Kelly Marsh (Taitano), PhD." <office.senatorkelly@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Regine Biscoe Lee <senatorbiscoelee@guamlegislature.org>, "Senator Joe S. San Agustin" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>, Senator Therese Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>, Senator Clynt Ridgell <sen.cridgell@teleguam.net>, Senator Jose Pedro Terlaje <senatorpedo@senatorjpterlaje.com>, Senator Sabina Perez <office@senatorperez.org>, Senator Wil Castro <wilcastro671@gmail.com>, Senator Louise Borja Muna <senatorlouise@gmail.com>, Senator Telo Taitague <senatortelot@gmail.com>, Senator James Moylan <senatormoylan@guamlegislature.org>, "Senator Mary C. Torres" <senatormary@guamlegislature.org>

Cc: phnotice@guamlegislature.org

Bcc: lifestyleeditor@glimpsesofofguam.com, carlsonc@pstripes.osd.mil, dcristos@guam.gannett.com, dmgeorge@guampdn.com, The Post Editor in Chief <editor@postguam.com>, editor@saipantribune.com, michael ko <gktv23@hotmail.com>, guam@pstripes.osd.mil, Jason Salas <jason@kuam.com>, John Oconor <john@postguam.com>, Jon Anderson <jontalk@gmail.com>, KISH <kstokish@gmail.com>, life@guampdn.com, mabuhaynews@yahoo.com, Guam PDN <news@guampdn.com>, Sorensen Pacific Broadcasting <news@spbgum.com>, nick@kuam.com, Bruce Hill <pacificjournalist@gmail.com>, parroyo@k57.com, KPRG Guam <pdkprg@gmail.com>, Phill Leon Guerrero <phill@spbgum.com>, publisher@glimpsesofofguam.com, rlimtiaco@guampdn.com, Sabrina Salas <sabrina@kuam.com>, Steve Limtiaco <slimtiaco@guampdn.com>, Manny Cruz <cruzma812@gmail.com>, Jerick Sablan <jpsablan@guampdn.com>, K57 <news@k57.com>, KPRG <admin.kprg@gmail.com>, Krystal Paco <krystal@kuam.com>, Maria Louella Losinio <louella.losinio@gmail.com>, Pacific Island Times <pacificislandtimes@gmail.com>, cherrie@mvariety.com, emmanuel@mvariety.com, junhan@mvariety.com, bryan@mvariety.com, businesseditor@glimpsesofofguam.com, Patti Rodriguez <parroyo@spbgum.com>, heugenio@guampdn.com, raygibsonshow@gmail.com, Carmen Terlaje <carmen@kuam.com>, Mar-Vic Cagurangan <publisher@pacificislandtimes.com>, pattiontheradio@yahoo.com, Kelly Park <kcn.kelly@gmail.com>, akaur@gannett.com, Desk Editor <deskeditor@postguam.com>, ithreev@gmail.com, Hunterspeaks <hunterspeaks671@gmail.com>

April 5, 2019

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders and Media

From: Senator Therese M. Terlaje
Chairperson, Committee on Health, Tourism, Historic Preservation, Land and JusticeSenator Joe S. San Agustin
Chairperson, Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing**Subject: FIRST NOTICE of Joint Public Hearing - Monday, April 15, 2019 at 9:00 AM**

Håfa Adai!

Please be advised that the Committee on Health, Tourism, Historic Preservation, Land and Justice and the Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing will convene a public hearing on Monday, April 15, 2019, beginning at 9:00 AM in / *Liheslaturan Guåhan's* Public Hearing Room (Guam Congress Building, Hagåtña).

On the agenda is the following:

- Bill No. 68-35 (COR)- Therese M. Terlaje- AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$150,000) FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION FOR CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE GUAM AUTISM CENTER. (Referred to the Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing)

- Bill No. 66-35 (COR)- Therese M. Terlaje- AN ACT TO AMEND § 2912 (P) OF ARTICLE 9, CHAPTER 2 OF DIVISION 1, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO INCREASING THE AGE QUALIFICATION AND INSURANCE CAP AMOUNT FOR THE TREATMENT OF AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD). (Referred to the Committee on Health, Tourism, Historic Preservation, Land and Justice)

We look forward to your attendance and participation.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse'

The hearing will broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117/60.4 and stream online via I Liheslaturan Guåhan's live feed. A recording of the hearing will be available online via Guam Legislature Media on YouTube after the hearing. If written testimonies are to be presented at the Public Hearing, the Committees' requests that copies be submitted prior to the public hearing date and should be addressed to Senator Therese M. Terlaje or Senator Joe S. San Agustin:

Office of Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Testimonies may be submitted via hand delivery to Ada Plaza Center, Suite 207, 173 Aspinall Avenue, Hagåtña, Guam; to the mail room of the Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam; or via email to senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com.

Office of Senator Joe S. San Agustin: Testimonies may be submitted via hand delivery to the Ran Care Bldg., CBU 203, 761 S. Marine Corps Drive, Tamuning, Guam; to the mail room of the Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam; or via email to senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals requiring special accommodations or services should contact the Office of Senator Therese M. Terlaje at (671) 472-3586 or by sending an email to senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com or the office of Senator Joe S. San Agustin at senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com.

--
Office of Senator Therese M. Terlaje

Committee on Health, Tourism, Historic Preservation, Land and Justice

I Mina'trentai Singko na Liheslaturan Guåhan

35th Guam Legislature

Office Location: Ada Plaza Center, Suite 207, 173 Aspinall Avenue, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Mailing address: Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

T: (671) 472-3586 F: (671) 969-3590 Email: senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com

website: www.senatorterlaje.com

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First notice PH 4.15.19_TMT & JSA.pdf

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Senator

Therese M. Terlaje

Committee on Health, Tourism,
Historic Preservation, Land and
Justice

April 5, 2019



I Mina'trentai Singko na Liheslaturan Guåhan
35th Guam Legislature

Senator

Joe S. San Agustin

Committee on General Government
Operations, Appropriations, and
Housing

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders and Media

From: Senator Therese M. Terlaje
Chairperson, Committee on Health, Tourism, Historic Preservation, Land and Justice

Senator Joe S. San Agustin
Chairperson, Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing

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Iran urges Iraq to expel US troops

DUBAI (Reuters) — Iran's top leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, urged Iraq on Saturday to demand U.S. troops leave "as soon as possible," during a visit by Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi that showed off Tehran's strong influence in Baghdad despite U.S. the U.S. worsened further following President Donald Trump's decision last year to pull out of an international accord curbing Tehran's nuclear program and to reimpose economic sanctions on Iran. During Abdul Mahdi's visit, President Hassan Rouhani

QUIETER TIMES:
A woman walks past a church in the early morning in Kiev, Ukraine, March 31. Taylor Weidman/Bloomberg



uled for April 21. Though other candidates have made corruption under Poroshenko's watch a theme of their campaigns, he's emphasized Russia's annexation of Crimea and the ongo-

felt similarly disposed toward Ukrainians. As far as their feelings toward Russia as a whole, some 57 percent of Ukrainians said they felt favorably, up from 30 percent in May 2015.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE
Committee on Health, Tourism, Historic Preservation, Land and Justice



SENATOR JOE S. SAN AGUSTIN
Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing

JOINT INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING - Monday, April 15, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.
Guam Legislature Public Hearing Room, Guam Congress Building, Hagåtña

AGENDA:

Bill No. 68-35 (COR)- Therese M. Terlaje- AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$150,000) FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION FOR CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE GUAM AUTISM CENTER. (Referred to the Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing)

Bill No. 66-35 (COR)- Therese M. Terlaje- AN ACT TO AMEND § 2912 (P) OF ARTICLE 9, CHAPTER 2 OF DIVISION 1, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO INCREASING THE AGE QUALIFICATION AND INSURANCE CAP AMOUNT FOR THE TREATMENT OF AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD). (Referred to the Committee on Health, Tourism, Historic Preservation, Land and Justice)

If you require any special accommodations or for further information, please contact the Office of Senator Therese M. Terlaje at 472-3586. Testimonies may be submitted to our office at Ada Plaza Center, Suite 207, 173 Aspinall Avenue, Hagåtña, Guam 96910, to the Guam Congress Building, or via email at senatorterlaje@guam.gov. The hearing will broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117/60.4, and stream online via Liheslaturan Guåhan's live feed at http://www.guamlegislature.com/live_feed.htm. This ad is paid for with government funds.

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE
Committee on Health, Tourism, Historic Preservation, Land and Justice



SENATOR SABINA F. PEREZ
Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, and Procurement

JOINT INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING - Monday, April 15, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.
Guam Legislature Public Hearing Room, Guam Congress Building, Hagåtña

The Committees will receive comments from government of Guam agencies and the public on the draft supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (OEIS) which assesses the potential environmental impacts for the proposed military actions in the Marianas Islands Training and Testing (MITT) study area.

AGENDA:

- Summary of proposed actions in draft supplemental EIS for MITT and written comments from Bureau of Statistics and Plans - Guam Coastal Management Program
- Summary of all permits related to proposed actions in the MITT study area and written comments from Guam Environmental Protection Agency
- Summary of potential impacts to historic sites and written comments from the Guam State Historic Preservation Office
- Testimony from other government of Guam agencies

If you require any special accommodations or for further information, please contact the Office of Senator Therese M. Terlaje at 472-3586. Testimonies may be submitted to our office at Ada Plaza Center, Suite 207, 173 Aspinall Avenue, Hagåtña, Guam 96910, to the Guam Congress Building, or via email at senatorterlaje@guam.gov. The hearing will broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117/60.4, and stream online via Liheslaturan Guåhan's live feed at http://www.guamlegislature.com/live_feed.htm. This ad is paid for with government funds.



Senator Therese Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>

SECOND NOTICE of Joint Public Hearing- Monday, April 15, 2019 at 9:00 AM

1 message

Senator Therese Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>

Thu, Apr 11, 2019 at 9:26 AM

To: Speaker's Office <speaker@guamlegislature.org>, Vice Speaker Telena Cruz Nelson <senatorcnelson@guamlegislature.org>, Office of Senator Shelton Guam Legislature <officeofsenatorshelton@guamlegislature.org>, "Office of Senator Kelly Marsh (Taitano), PhD." <office.senatorkelly@guamlegislature.org>, Senator Regine Biscoe Lee <senatorbiscoelee@guamlegislature.org>, "Senator Joe S. San Agustin" <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>, Senator Therese Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>, Senator Clynt Ridgell <sen.cridgell@teleguam.net>, Senator Jose Pedo Terlaje <senatorpedo@senatorjpterlaje.com>, Senator Sabina Perez <office@senatorperez.org>, Senator Wil Castro <wilcastro671@gmail.com>, Senator Louise Borja Muna <senatorlouise@gmail.com>, Senator Telo Taitague <senatortelot@gmail.com>, Senator James Moylan <senatormoylan@guamlegislature.org>, "Senator Mary C. Torres" <senatormary@guamlegislature.org>

Cc: phnotice@guamlegislature.org

Bcc: lifestyleeditor@glimpsesofiguam.com, carlsonc@pstripes.osd.mil, dcrisost@guam.gannett.com, dmgeorge@guampdn.com, The Post Editor in Chief <editor@postguam.com>, editor@saipantribune.com, michael ko <gktv23@hotmail.com>, guam@pstripes.osd.mil, Jason Salas <jason@kuam.com>, John Oconor <john@postguam.com>, Jon Anderson <jontalk@gmail.com>, KISH <kstokish@gmail.com>, life@guampdn.com, mabuhaynews@yahoo.com, Guam PDN <news@guampdn.com>, Sorensen Pacific Broadcasting <news@spbguam.com>, nick@kuam.com, Bruce Hill <pacificjournalist@gmail.com>, parroyo@k57.com, KPRG Guam <pdkprg@gmail.com>, Phill Leon Guerrero <phill@spbguam.com>, publisher@glimpsesofiguam.com, rlimtiaco@guampdn.com, Sabrina Salas <sabrina@kuam.com>, Steve Limtiaco <slimtiaco@guampdn.com>, Manny Cruz <cruzma812@gmail.com>, Jerick Sablan <jpsablan@guampdn.com>, K57 <news@k57.com>, KPRG <admin.kprg@gmail.com>, Krystal Paco <krystal@kuam.com>, Maria Louella Losinio <louella.losinio@gmail.com>, Pacific Island Times <pacificislandtimes@gmail.com>, cherrie@mvariety.com, emmanuel@mvariety.com, junhan@mvariety.com, bryan@mvariety.com, businesseditor@glimpsesofiguam.com, Patti Rodriguez <parroyo@spbguam.com>, heugenio@guampdn.com, raygibsonshow@gmail.com, Carmen Terlaje <carmen@kuam.com>, Mar-Vic Cagurangan <publisher@pacificislandtimes.com>, pattiontheradio@yahoo.com, Kelly Park <kcn.kelly@gmail.com>, akaur@gannett.com, Desk Editor <deskeditor@postguam.com>, ithreev@gmail.com, Hunterspeaks <hunterspeaks671@gmail.com>

April 11, 2019

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders and Media

From: Senator Therese M. Terlaje
Chairperson, Committee on Health, Tourism, Historic Preservation, Land and Justice

Senator Joe S. San Agustin
Chairperson, Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing

Subject: **SECOND NOTICE of Joint Public Hearing - Monday, April 15, 2019 at 9:00 AM**

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--

Office of Senator Therese M. Terlaje

Committee on Health, Tourism, Historic Preservation, Land and Justice

I Mina'trentai Singko na Liheslaturan Guåhan

35th Guam Legislature

Office Location: Ada Plaza Center, Suite 207, 173 Aspinall Avenue, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Mailing address: Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

T: (671) 472-3586 F: (671) 969-3590 Email: senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com

website: www.senatorterlaje.com

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Second notice PH 4.15.19_Hunters Law, Hunter Speaks, Guam Autism Center.pdf

118K

Senator

Therese M. Terlaje

Committee on Health, Tourism,
Historic Preservation, Land and
Justice

April 11, 2019



I Mina'trentai Singko na Liheslaturan Guåhan
35th Guam Legislature

Senator

Joe S. San Agustin

Committee on General Government
Operations, Appropriations, and
Housing

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders and Media

From: Senator Therese M. Terlaje
Chairperson, Committee on Health, Tourism, Historic Preservation, Land and Justice

Senator Joe S. San Agustin
Chairperson, Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing

Subject: **SECOND NOTICE of Joint Public Hearing** - Monday, April 15, 2019 at 9:00 AM

Håfa Adai!

Please be advised that the Committee on Health, Tourism, Historic Preservation, Land and Justice and the Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing will convene a public hearing on **Monday, April 15, 2019, beginning at 9:00 AM** in *I Liheslaturan Guåhan's* Public Hearing Room (Guam Congress Building, Hagåtña).

On the agenda is the following:

- Bill No. 68-35 (COR)- Therese M. Terlaje- AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$150,000) FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION FOR CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE GUAM AUTISM CENTER. (Referred to the Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing)
- Bill No. 66-35 (COR)- Therese M. Terlaje- AN ACT TO AMEND § 2912 (P) OF ARTICLE 9, CHAPTER 2 OF DIVISION 1, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO INCREASING THE AGE QUALIFICATION AND INSURANCE CAP AMOUNT FOR THE TREATMENT OF AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD). (Referred to the Committee on Health, Tourism, Historic Preservation, Land and Justice)

We look forward to your attendance and participation. *Si Yu'os Ma'åse'*

The hearing will broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117/60.4 and stream online via [I Liheslaturan Guåhan's live feed](#). A recording of the hearing will be available online via [Guam Legislature Media](#) on YouTube after the hearing. If written testimonies are to be presented at the Public Hearing, the Committees' requests that copies be submitted prior to the public hearing date and should be addressed to Senator Therese M. Terlaje or Senator Joe S. San Agustin:

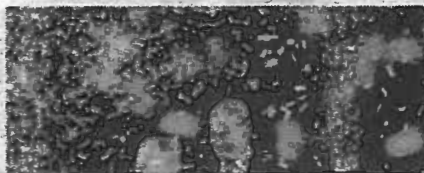
Office of Senator Therese M. Terlaje: Testimonies may be submitted via hand delivery to Ada Plaza Center, Suite 207, 173 Aspinall Avenue, Hagåtña, Guam; to the mail room of the Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam; or via email to senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com.

Office of Senator Joe S. San Agustin: Testimonies may be submitted via hand delivery to the Ran Care Bldg., CBU 203, 761 S. Marine Corps Drive, Tamuning, Guam; to the mail room of the Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam; or via email to senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals requiring special accommodations or services should contact the Office of Senator Therese M. Terlaje at (671) 472-3586 or by sending an email to senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com or the office of Senator Joe S. San Agustin at senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com.

Israel's Netanyahu wins re-election, main challenger concedes defeat

JERUSALEM (Reuters) - Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu secured a clear path to re-election on Wednesday, with religious-rightist parties set to hand him a parliamentary majority and his main challenger



said, adding that he thanked his American ally for "tremendous support for Israel."

Netanyahu tweeted that Trump had called him from Air Force One. The

At the sessions, which Rivlin said would be broadcast live "to ensure transparency," he will then pick a party leader to try to form a coalition, giving the candidate 28 days to do so, with a

SENATOR THERESE M. TERLAJE

Committee on Health, Tourism,
Historic Preservation, Land and
Justice



SENATOR JOE S. SAN
AGUSTIN

Committee on General
Government Operations,
Appropriations, and Housing

JOINT INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING - Monday, April 15, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

Guam Legislature Public Hearing Room, Guam Congress Building, Hagåtña

AGENDA:

Bill No. 68-35 (COR)- Therese M. Terlaje- AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$150,000) FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION FOR CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE GUAM AUTISM CENTER. (Referred to the Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing)

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If you require any special accommodations or for further information, please contact the Office of Senator Therese M. Terlaje at 472-3586. Testimonies may be submitted to our office at Ada Plaza Center, Suite 207, 173 Aspinall Avenue, Hagåtña, Guam 96910, to the Guam Congress Building, or via email at senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com. The hearing will broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 17/60.4 and stream online via 1) Liheslaturan Guahan's live feed at <http://www.guamlegislature.com/livefeed.htm>. This ad is paid for with government funds.



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NOTICE OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The Guam Economic Development Authority (GEDA), a public corporation, will be holding its Regular Board of Directors meeting on **Tuesday, April 16, 2019 at 9:30 a.m.** in the GEDA conference room located in Suite 511, 5th Floor, International Trade Center (ITC) Building, 590 South Marine Corps Drive, Tamuning, Guam.

Persons requiring special accommodations should contact GEDA's ADA coordinator, Mr. Austin Grant, at 647-4332 or austin.grant@investguam.com.

/s/ MELANIE MENDIOLA
Chief Executive Officer/Administrator
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Updated as of 3.11.19



THERESE M. TERLAJE

I Mina'trentai Singko na Liheslaturan Guåhan

35th Guam Legislature

Committee on Health, Tourism, Historic Preservation, Land and Justice

Monday, April 15, 2019

9:00 AM

AGENDA

- Bill No. 68-35 (COR) – Therese M. Terlaje – AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$150,000) FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION FOR CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE GUAM AUTISM CENTER.
- Bill No. 66-35 (COR) – Therese M. Terlaje - AN ACT TO AMEND § 2912 (P) OF ARTICLE 9, CHAPTER 2 OF DIVISION 1, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO INCREASING THE AGE QUALIFICATION AND INSURANCE CAP AMOUNT FOR THE TREATMENT OF AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD).

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We look forward to your attendance and participation.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse

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Office of
SENATOR Joe S. San Agustin

I Mina'trentai - Singko na Liheslaturan Guåhan, Thirty-Fifth Guam Legislature

Joint Public Hearing Sign-in Sheet

April 15, 2019 • 9:00 am • Guam Congress Building

Bill No. 68-35 (COR)- Therese M. Terlaje- AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$150,000) FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION FOR CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE GUAM AUTISM CENTER. (Referred to the Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing)

| NAME | AGENCY OR ORGANIZATION (IF ANY) | SUPPORT? OPPOSE? | WRITTEN TESTIMONY | ORAL TESTIMONY | CONTACT NUMBER | EMAIL ADDRESS |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Dr. Vinco Duong | Hunter Speaks | Support | | X | | |
| PAMELA S. QUINTA | " " | " " | ✓ | ✓ | 482-0061 | |
| RIOS Tiffany | Hunter Speaks | Support | ✓ | ✓ | 487-8098 | |
| TERRISA Cruz-BLAS | Hunter Speaks | Support | | ✓ | 489-3091 | |
| Camille Paulino | Hunter Speaks | Support | ✓ | ✓ | 689-5720 | |
| Jacklyn Canada | Hunter Speaks | Support | ✓ | ✓ | 9986858 | |
| Kyle Canada | Hunter Speaks | Support | | | 7771408 | |
| Tanya Duena | Hunter Speaks | Support | --- | --- | 487-5493 | |
| Kelsey DeLaCruz | Hunter Speaks | Support | --- | --- | | |
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Committee Chairman: General Government Operations, Appropriations, & Housing

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Office of
SENATOR Joe S. San Agustin
I Mina'trentai - Singko na Liheslaturan Guåhan, Thirty-Fifth Guam Legislature

Joint Public Hearing Sign-in Sheet

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|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
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| Jhymie Byerana Theresa C. Blas | Hunter Speaks | Support | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 489-9727 | jhymiebyerana@gmail.com |
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April 15, 2019

Testimony of Support

Re: Bill 68-35

Hafa adai speaker, senators.

My name is Dr. Vincent Duenas and I am here to today to provide testimony in support of Bill 68-35.

First and foremost, I would just like to start off by thanking you all for hearing my concerns both as a parent of a young autistic boy Hunter as well as an advocate and leader in the autism community. I want to thank Senator Terlaje for taking on the challenge of introducing such critical pieces of legislation, that if passed will be monumental to the future of our island's children suffering from autism spectrum disorder. As many of you know, ASD is one of the most prevalent and debilitating disorders that exists today. 1 in 59 kids in the United States will fall on the autism spectrum. That's 1 in 42 boys, and 1 in 189 girls. With those staggering odds, it is likely that everyone of us here in this room will at some point if not already be touched by someone with the diagnosis.

When my wife and I first found out about Hunter it was a terrifying thing for us. Not knowing what his future would hold. Not having anyone to help navigate the maze of challenges we soon would face as a young family. We went through the motions here on Guam and found just scarce resources at best. Our only option after years of searching was to leave the beautiful island we called home.

We eventually ventured to Hawaii and toured an amazing autism center which we planned to enroll Hunter in full time. After seeing the kids there and the quality of care they were receiving, it troubled us that the children on Guam didn't have access to the same wonderful opportunities as everyone else. We were then faced with the dilemma of relocating and ignoring what was going on vs staying and sacrificing our only son. I think our choice is obvious and what led to the formation of Hunterspeaks.

The organization has worked tirelessly the past three years executing our strategic plan to improve services on the island. We have made tremendous progress with the help of our

government leaders past and present as well as those in the private sector and community members. We were able to recruit Guam's first board certified behavior analyst (BCBA) and two registered behavior technicians (RBT), as well as train a handful more. There is still so much work to be done but definitely light at the end of the tunnel.

In November of 2018 we opened our doors at the temporary autism center in Upper Tumon providing ABA therapy for the first time on island. We now service 6 clients in a pilot program and hope to grow as quickly as possible. Of the 260 children we've identified already it is only a fraction of what needs to be. But everything good has to start somewhere. Getting our island up to speed with the rest of the world is an enormous task and we're certainly up for the challenge. But we can't do it alone. I plead with you today to trust in our organization to get the job done and pray for your support of this bill. Thank you.

Dr. Vincent S. Duenas

CEO/Co-Founder

Hunterspeaks Organization

TESTIMONY
of
SOPHIA-MAE SGAMBELLURI QUINATA
In Support of Bill 68-35

April 15, 2019



Good morning Speaker Muna-Barnes, Madam Chairperson, Committee members on Health, Tourism, Historic Preservation, Land and Justice, and Senators of the 35th Guam Legislature. My name is Pamela Quinata. I am the grandmother of 6-year old Amelia Quinata, our little angel who was diagnosed with autism at the tender age of 3 years old.

I testify today in support of the passage of Bill 68-35, an Act to Appropriate \$150,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Administration for Continued Operation of the Guam Autism Center. I testify in place of my daughter, Sophia Mae-Quinata, as she is caring for Amelia and unable to attend this hearing.

Before Amelia, autism was something we knew very little about. For those of you who have not experienced autism, we were once in your shoes. In order to really understand autism, please imagine the following... Imagine what it would be like not to hear your child's voice. Imagine what it would be like if your child could not express basic feelings of love, fear, pain, hunger, recite their alphabets, count or run. This is what autism looks and feels like for the children and the families who live with this diagnosis. For Amelia, this is her reality. These are the challenges she and our family face every second of every day.

I want to share Amelia's story from the beginning to provide you a greater understanding of the gaps in services and the struggles children with autism and their families on Guam face. Amelia's story began six years ago when she entered this world with a broken clavicle and damaged nerves in her arm and eye. My family and I did not realize that this was just the beginning of a long journey for which we were not prepared.

Aside from Amelia's new born complications everything seemed relatively normal at first. When Amelia did not meet the normal developmental milestones, we assumed, hoped she was progressing at a different pace, her pace. However, with the passage of time and the absence of milestones, we became exceedingly concerned. Amelia had trouble holding her head, crawling and reaching for objects. We would eventually discover this was due to Amelia's abnormal levels of muscle tone, which is referred to as Hypotonia or commonly known as floppy baby or child syndrome. It was the lack of milestones that told us we were dealing with something serious and that Amelia was in desperate need of medical attention.

In search of answers, we turned to medical doctors on island, yet it would be a long journey before Amelia would receive an actual diagnosis. We soon realized this was because there were no developmental disability doctors on island.

Throughout the long journey to a diagnosis, Sophia never asked, “Why me God” or “Why Amelia?” Instead, Sophia continued to focus her energies on researching how we could better assist Amelia. After a year of frustrating doctor visits and meeting with different governmental and private programs, we as a family came to the painful conclusion that Guam did not have the resources. It was one of the most painful decisions of our lives which impacted our entire family, and after much deliberation and prayer, my husband Frank, Sophia and I decided that Amelia and Sophia would relocate to San Diego, California to seek the medical and therapeutic care necessary.

In San Diego, from 2 to 3 years of age, Amelia received varied medical attention and therapies such as occupational, physical, speech and Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA), the gold standard right now for treating autism. She was also enrolled in a school system that placed her in a class dedicated to children with Autism. To add to Amelia’s situation, she began the regiment of daily medication for a case of petit mal absent seizures. However, despite the numerous and strong resources provided in San Diego and despite the fact Amelia was thriving, Sophia and Amelia were forced to return home due to the lack of family support. And, as we found to realize, “it takes a village” to care for a child with Autism.

So, you see, in six short years, little Amelia has been through so much in search of necessary care. Without the love and support of family and friends and the vital institutions and programs, Amelia’s life will not, never improve. Therefore, it is with all our hearts that we appeal to you and ask your support for the much-needed funding for the Guam Autism Center which offers behavioral therapy, the gold standard “ABA”, for children with autism.

In conclusion, we offer our support of Bill 68-35 for Continued Operation of the Guam Autism Center as Amelia needs over one hundred hours a week alone for applied behavioral analysis, (ABA), which the autism center offers, (a standard of care for the treatment of autism). With the requested funding through this Bill, Amelia and other Guam families will not have to relocate to avail themselves of services. With the help of the autism center, Amelia will be able to receive the care that will focus on, “improving play skills, communication, self-care, academics and social living”. Without the additional funding and in-fact, increased funding, the center will not be able to extend the assistance that is sorely needed for the autism community of Guam. Families on Guam should not have to leave island and abandon their support systems in search of services as we did.

On behalf of our angel Amelia, her mother Sophia, and our family, Si Yu’us Ma’ase. God Bless.

4/15/19

To: Our Senators

RE: Bill No.

Good morning my name is Camille Paulino with the Hunterspeaks Organization.

I came before this governing body two years ago when bill No. 16-34, now Hunter's Law was first proposed to ask for your support to bring necessary medical treatment to our island for our people with Autism Spectrum Disorder. When Hunter's Law passed it was the start of something amazing. I'm happy to report how much progress and change has occurred since then.

We are now an operational center with certified staff who is providing ABA therapy, the only approved medical treatment for individuals with ASD to some of our island's young children on the spectrum. Our community has come a long way in supporting this cause. April is Autism Awareness month and you may have noticed the village signs in support, the seas of blue shirts, the buildings lit up each evening in blue, the pictures of our young people with a reminder to think differently. Two years ago, this was a dream that we anticipated would take a long journey to achieve but with so much of the community's support it has become a reality and it is an emotional moment to look back on where we came from to today.

Our mission remains the same, to provide medically necessary treatment to a population that often has not been able to speak for themselves; to provide them with options for an inclusive and fulfilling life; to service as many individuals as we can.

Today I ask for your support to help us continue to make progress toward our mission so that we can bring more awareness, more training to service providers and more care to our children. Please help us to continue to move forward because we've come to far to look back.

Thank you,

Camille Paulino

Board Member, Hunterspeaks

My name is Tiffany Rios and I have been working with individuals on the Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) as an Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapist for over 11 years. I fall more and more in love with ABA with every therapy session I conduct. It is hard to describe to individuals what my job is, aside from amazing. The best answer I can give is that our goal is to help the individual gain independent skills to complete daily activities that we all take for granted. I work hard for me to basically not have a job one day...because they no longer require my services.

I have had the privilege to work with individuals with autism from the age of 3-21 in home, school setting, vocational program and in the community. I have seen firsthand the benefits of ABA, such as increase in language and communication skills, improvement in joint attention, decrease in problem behaviors, and the one that I feel is so very important, social skills. It has been amazing to watch a child who at the age of 7 could only make babbling sounds, eventually make his first word "cookie, where previously would cry and drop to the floor when he could not communicate what he wanted. ABA gave him a voice. To teach a 17-year-old to not only grocery shop, but also pay for them on his own, appropriately ask those around him how their day was, and display appropriate social skills in a store, a 17 year old who previously would take other people's items from their carts and pull items from shopper's hands because to him, that was helping. ABA gave him independence.

In 2017, I moved to Guam from Illinois. I immediately started searching for Autism services and to my surprise only found HunterSpeaks. Soon after I met Vince and Tanya Duenas. The first thing I saw was a mother desperately looking for answers. I started working with Hunter in January of 2018, and soon after that I met 3 more individuals with autism. With each new family I met my heart broke more and more.

I met a 5-year-old girl with no form of communication and non-vocal. A 6-year-old boy with no form of communication and limited vocal sounds. Both kids would pull at parents to communicate when they wanted something. I felt angry for the kids and for their family. How could they ask for a drink, snack, toy or even a hug? It was like someone taped their mouth shut and then they were being asked why are you crying, why are you not listening? Tell me! But how? How could they get even their basic needs across to their loved ones? The more families I talked with, the more my heart continued to break. It broke because I knew what ABA could do to help each child reach their highest potential. Just like I have seen happen with previous clients.

Several families on Guam have left their home, families and island to get their child the recommend medical services, prescribed by their doctor and many families are questioning if they need to leave their island. Currently there is over 260 individuals on the Autism Spectrum Disorder from the ages of 3-21 **just** in the public-school system.

What I do know from being a part of HunterSpeaks is who the people of Guam are. You all are fighters. I can best describe it as a family, where everyone looks out and supports one another. I have never met so many people who want to be involved, learn and support the therapy their child is in.

It is exciting to watch a child, that 3 months ago had no form of communication now tell us they want a drink, to play ring-around-the-Rosie, ask for a specific toy or food, a child smile while engaging with their peer, a child break a ridged routine, to give the correct response to a question asked and see each of these kids master current targets for programs that are specifically adapted to fit their needs. It is amazing for a child to learn that their ability to communicate has meaning and power.

Currently there is no cure for Autism Spectrum Disorder and ABA is the recommend evidence-based treatment. Because of this, parents need continued funding and support as their children age, and their needs shift. Without ABA, individuals with autism on Guam may not develop the necessary skills required to function at home, in school and in their communities, leading to a life of challenges and hardships.

Today, we ask that you honor the requests made and continue to support our islands Autism Center - HunterSpeaks.

Respectfully,

Tiffany Rios, RBT

Resident of Santa Rita, Guam

Hello, my name is Jacklyn Canada. For the past decade I have worked with individuals with Autism spectrum disorder as a behavioral therapist, providing medically necessary treatment.

During this time, I have had the opportunity to develop a skill set that has been utilized to treat clients as young as 2 and as old as 26. I have worked in homes, clinics, in classrooms, camps and I have witnessed firsthand the direct result of applied behavior analysis. I have cried alongside many parents for things that come naturally to other children, such as the first time their child had a friend who wasn't simply playing because they were told to.

The CDC states that autism affects 1 in every 59 children. There are no restrictions on age or geographical location. According to a 2018 demographics profile there are over 46,000 children between the ages of 1 – 14 in Guam. That leaves a minimum possibility of almost 800 children needing treatment.

Applied Behavior Analysis, or ABA, is recognized as the gold standard of treatment for autism by the American Medical Association. ABA is more than just behavioral therapy, it is a proven scientific method to teach all skills vital for individuals to integrate into mainstream society. **play skills, academics, social skills, daily living skills, vocational training, and self-help skills like showering and toileting**

I could speak numbers and science, but I have a feeling that other people here today are going to do that for you. So instead, I will talk about how it has affected my life personally and how ABA therapy has changed the life of someone very dear to me.

About eight years ago my nephew was born a healthy beautiful baby boy. His name -Mason. Fast forward three years to a toddler with minimal language, delays in development across all domains and doctors without answers. A devastated family, a heartbroken mother, and a child who threw tantrums and screamed, but did not want to be touched.

By Mason's fourth birthday he started an intensive 30 hours a week therapy program all funded through his insurance. Quickly we started to see progress, as language was coming, and the ability to see what could be-- if we could just find out how to reach him.

We spent hours at the table, practicing rules, teaching social cues, learning life skills, and more. Literally thousands of hours contriving situations to practice: social scenarios, artificial classroom environments, fake birthday parties, trick-or-treat rehearsals, and community outings all for the hope that he could someday go into the community and tolerate when there are strange noises like a toilet flushing, or a stranger humming. Thousands of dollars well spent so that Mason could function on his own within our society.

Currently he attends a regular school without any additional support. He has friends, and he can play with toys and go to the park and be a kid. His life has been forever changed, and he will never have to be "that kid" at the birthday parties again, because of ABA.

Autism does not “look” like anything, because it is everything. It is not the same for everyone, it is a spectrum disorder. There is no way to know how many hours of therapy an individual will require to reach their fullest potential, but the hope is to always have the support needed to get there. I haven’t been on Guam long, but I have been here long enough to see that this island values its community. We often say it’s never too late to make a change, but with the age cap you are telling some people it is too late for them. By not increasing both the budget and the age cap you are putting a limit on what you are saying the local community is worth and what they deserve.

Thank you

Jacklyn Canada

April 15, 2019

Committee on Health, Tourism, Historic Preservation, Land and Justice
Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing
35th Guam Legislature

Re: Testimony - Bill No. 66-35
An act to amend § 2912 (P) of Article 9, Chapter 2 of Division 1, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated
Relative to increasing the age qualification and insurance cap amount for the treatment of Autism
Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Testimony – Bill No. 68-35
An act to appropriate one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) from the General Fund to the
Department of Administration for continued operations of the Guam Autism Center.

Dear Members of the Committee;

Thank You for accepting my written testimony in support of the above referenced matter. My name is Teresa Cruz-Blas and I am mother to Eli, a 6-year old boy with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Eli was diagnosed with ASD shortly before his second birthday in 2014. He has been diagnosed with what is known as 'classic autism', is nonverbal, and requires substantial support to complete basic self-care tasks (Activities of Daily Living) and other activities related to independent living (Instrumental Activities of Daily Living). Since receiving this diagnosis and despite the limited--to almost non-existent--treatment resources on island for individuals with ASD, my husband and I have committed to providing him with all recommended services by his educational and medical providers (i.e. consultations, evaluations, medications, etc). Unfortunately, we have not been able to see any real success and/or significant changes with Eli as outcomes from these services.

In January 2018, through networking with Tanya Duenas (co-founder of the Hunter Speaks Organization), my family was fortunate enough to cross paths with an individual who provided Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy to children with ASD in the mainland prior to her relocation to the island. ABA is an evidenced based approach to working with individuals with Autism and other developmental/behavioral disorders. It is also known as the 'gold standard' for Autism treatment because of its demonstrable success in achieving specific outcomes which are desired behaviors and skills. ABA therapy was provided to Eli as a private, 'in-home' service until his official transition to the Guam Autism Center in December that year.

Prior to Eli receiving ABA therapy, tasks deemed as simple for most children his age such as feeding oneself, putting on/taking off clothing, playing with other children, or simply waiting for something were struggles that often resulted in meltdowns which placed him in a serious state of distress. It took my husband and I quite some time to understand that prior to losing control of his behavior, Eli was simply trying to communicate with us; we just did not know how to do the same with him. Moments like this have left us drowning in a whirlpool of guilt, sadness and fear. I would often ask myself, *What is wrong with me? Why can't I help him? Why him?*

While the struggles and challenges of raising a child with ASD will always exist, the introduction of ABA in our lives has been significant. Within the year, Eli learned to 'wave' goodbye to others when being told goodbye. He is able to respond to his name by making (brief) eye-contact and is able to sit with us at the dining table to enjoy mealtime as a family. With some assistance, Eli is now able to perform daily self-care tasks such as brushing his teeth, feeding himself and has shown more interest in socializing with peers and his sister. Meltdowns are few and his ability to be in control of his behavior has improved drastically. Such progress may seem small and insignificant, but they are tremendous outcomes for him.

But even more remarkable and exciting, our family has a functional means to communicate with Eli. Eli has been taught how to use a Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) which is an alternative communication system to help convey his thoughts and needs (communication is initiated by Eli by handing out picture cards related to what he is thinking and/or in exchange for a desired item). He will eventually be at a level to learn how to use a symbol-based, text-to-speech voice Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) application on a mobile device. Looking back on this journey up to this point, I can remember snippets in time when I would think, *I will never know my son's voice*. The thought of Eli feeling 'unwanted' and 'alone' because I simply could not understand what he needed from me was tormenting. *If I could not understand my child, how could anyone else?* PECS through ABA has given Eli a voice! My imminent reality which seemed hopeless is now promising; it truly is a beautiful experience to feel connected with my child.

There is no doubt that Eli is responding very well to his ABA programs and has accomplished so much more in the recent year than I could have imagined. He has worked incredibly hard to get to where he is at. But he still has a long way to go and he will need to continue this treatment in the years to come. The passing of Hunter's Law was the first step in affording Eli the opportunity to be a student at the Guam Autism Center to receive ABA therapy in a more structured environment. He currently receives twelve (12) hours of therapy per week which is less than a third of the recommended (and prescribed) forty (40) hours of therapy deemed necessary for Eli to learn the skills and behaviors to be successful throughout his day. As we increase his time at the Center, it is projected that the current insurance cap (for eligible children his age) of fifty-thousand (\$50,000) dollars for Autism treatment will be exhausted prior to the end of the year. The thought of reaching this point is frightening. It would be at this time consideration to reduce Eli's ABA hours and/or completely withdraw him from the Center will be made as to avoid our family from sinking into a financial black hole; we simply would not be able to afford this treatment.

The Guam Autism Center through the Hunter Speaks Organization has been the symbol of hope for Eli and our family. It is also a symbol of hope for many of our island families on this autism journey who have been fighting, praying, and waiting for the treatment their child desperately needs. Initiatives to support the growth and expansion of the Center are critical for this community. Legislation that supports access to ABA treatment gives children like Eli a chance to one day attain self-sufficiency and contribute to society. Families like mine should be given the chance to dream and hope for the same success of their child just like any other family. But families like mine undeniably need the support from leaders in our community, like you, to help make this a reality. We need your help to champion change that provides for a quality life for children and individuals like my son.

It is often said that the things you take for granted, someone else is praying for. Eli developing the necessary skills to not only lead a fulfilling and meaningful life, but to survive beyond my time is a prayer that will never end. This prayer will also be one of gratitude for the impact ABA therapy has had on our entire family; a prayer of thanksgiving for every person who has helped us on this journey.

There is no question that Eli's diagnosis has forever changed my life. My son has been my greatest teacher in showing me that the healthiest path forward in life is one of patience, compassion and love. Eli has taught me to love myself and others for who they are, without reservation. I have learned to see others for not what they are, but for what they can become. Autism is exactly what I never knew I needed and I have my son to thank for that.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on the proposed legislation and for allowing me to share my story.

Sincerely,

Teressa Cruz-Blas
P.O. Box 2575
Hagatna, Guam 96932
671-489-3091

April 15, 2019

Testimony for Bill 68-35 (COR) & Bill 66-35 (COR)

Submitted by Isa Koki

Hafa Adai Mr. Chairperson, Madam Speaker, and Senators of the 35th Guam legislature,

My name is Isa Marie Cruz Koki and my godson's name is Eli Anthony Cruz Blas. He is 6 years old, he loves rockets, straws, and ice cream. He also is non verbal and has Autism. With the passage of Hunter's law of 2017, Eli has been able to receive regular and consistent ABA therapy for a year and half.

I am here to provide testimony of how I have seen great progress in his social skills since he started receiving therapy. He has become more focused and engaged with me. His eye contact has increased tremendously. There are far less meltdowns. He uses a book of pictures to show us what he wants. He follows simple instructions. He responds well to discipline. He's become my best friend. If anything, the improvement in his interactions and behavior has given me hope. Hope that one day he will have the life skills necessary for him to be a bit more independent. It also allows for me to know that he knows right and wrong. Something that I couldn't say I knew before he received therapy.

However, the hard work is far from being complete. There are still times when he would bang his head or pull his three-year old sister's hair. He still needs help tying his shoes and brushing his teeth. So I am here asking for you to support the bills before you. We have seen the great work that comes out of but we know that there is still a lot more work to be done. We want progress and hope. Progress for him to be able to communicate with us and hope that he will be able to do things on his own.

4/14/2019

To: Members of the 35th Guam Legislature

From: Michael Um, MD, pediatrician and owner of One Love Pediatrics

Re: Support for bill 66-35 in increase health insurance funding and age cut off, and bill 68-35 to appropriate general funds for recruitment and training for Guam Autism Center

Dear Members of the 35th Guam Legislature,

Good Morning! My name is Michael Um, I'm a board certified pediatrician who works as a pediatric hospitalist at GMH and I'm also the owner of a pediatric clinic, One Love Pediatrics, where I am currently the sole provider.

I am writing today in support of bills 66-35 and 68-35, to increase health insurance funding for Autism Spectrum Disorders, raising the age cutoff, and to appropriate general funds to help recruit and train behavioral technicians.

As you are all likely aware, autism is a common diagnosis in Guam and worldwide. Dr. Vinny Duenas and his wife Tanya have made huge strides in bringing resources to Guam for the children with autism, however we need to make further progress to ensure that the children with autism that live in Guam have access to the same resources and treatment options as the children that live stateside.

During my residency training at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital-Oakland, in Oakland, California, I was able to have a behavioral medicine rotation with Dr. Lane Tanner. One of the most surprising aspects about the rotation was just how time intensive behavioral medicine could be. Whereas I was used to taking care of up to 30 patients a day in the inpatient setting, behavioral medicine was on a much different pace and providers would sometimes spend up to 2 hours per patient! Clearly behavior therapies are not something that can be rushed and need adequate time to see the optimal benefits.

I've attached a few abstracts that demonstrate the efficacy of behavioral therapies in adolescents with autism. Of course, there needs to be more research, but early results are unsurprising in that behavioral therapies lead to better outcomes for the adolescents with autism.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0005789414000033>

<https://content.iospress.com/articles/journal-of-vocational-rehabilitation/jvr812>

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10578-018-0817-5>

As a recap, the children of Guam with autism need longitudinal treatment which will require more time, more funding and more behavioral technicians. The adolescents with autism in Guam also stand to benefit from more services. I've already referred patients to Hunterspeaks and I would love to see them grow into the best adults they can be.

Thank you,

Michael Um, MD FAAP

Hunterspeaks Organization
Profit & Loss by Class
 January 2018 through March 2019

| | <u>GovGuam Appropriations</u> | <u>TOTAL</u> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Ordinary Income/Expense | | |
| Income | | |
| Grants | 150,000.00 | 150,000.00 |
| Total Income | 150,000.00 | 150,000.00 |
| Expense | | |
| Contract Services | | |
| Outside Contract Services | 6,000.00 | 6,000.00 |
| Total Contract Services | 6,000.00 | 6,000.00 |
| Facilities and Equipment | | |
| Small Equipment Purchases | 1,509.88 | 1,509.88 |
| Rent, Parking, Utilities | 6,525.31 | 6,525.31 |
| Total Facilities and Equipment | 8,035.19 | 8,035.19 |
| Operations | | |
| Education and Training | 44,760.07 | 44,760.07 |
| Employee Benefits | 10,000.00 | 10,000.00 |
| Books, Subscriptions, Reference | 270.00 | 270.00 |
| Printing and Copying | 475.11 | 475.11 |
| Supplies | 4,141.88 | 4,141.88 |
| Telephone, Telecommunications | 1,035.65 | 1,035.65 |
| Total Operations | 60,682.71 | 60,682.71 |
| Other Types of Expenses | | |
| Bank Service Charges | 32.45 | 32.45 |
| Total Other Types of Expenses | 32.45 | 32.45 |
| Payroll Expenses | | |
| Salaries and Wages | 84,082.52 | 84,082.52 |
| Payroll Taxes | 6,432.29 | 6,432.29 |
| Payroll Expenses - Other | 28.00 | 28.00 |
| Total Payroll Expenses | 90,542.81 | 90,542.81 |
| Travel and Meetings | | |
| Travel | 1,850.05 | 1,850.05 |
| Total Travel and Meetings | 1,850.05 | 1,850.05 |
| Total Expense | 167,143.21 | 167,143.21 |
| Net Ordinary Income | -17,143.21 | -17,143.21 |
| Net Income | -17,143.21 | -17,143.21 |

Hunterspeaks Organization
Profit & Loss Detail
 January 1, 2018 through March 25, 2019

| Type | Date | Num | Name | Memo | Amount | Balance |
|----------------------------------|------------|-----|----------------------|---|------------|------------|
| Ordinary Income/Expense | | | | | | |
| Income | | | | | | |
| Grants | | | | | | |
| Deposit | 01/08/2018 | | | Deposit | 150,000.00 | 150,000.00 |
| Total Grants | | | | | 150,000.00 | 150,000.00 |
| Total Income | | | | | 150,000.00 | 150,000.00 |
| Expense | | | | | | |
| Contract Services | | | | | | |
| Outside Contract Services | | | | | | |
| Check | 05/16/2018 | 293 | Inina Plucer-Rosario | BCBA Consultation | 6,000.00 | 6,000.00 |
| Total Outside Contract Services | | | | | 6,000.00 | 6,000.00 |
| Total Contract Services | | | | | 6,000.00 | 6,000.00 |
| Facilities and Equipment | | | | | | |
| Small Equipment Purchases | | | | | | |
| Check | 02/10/2018 | 117 | Vincent Duenas | Reimbursement | 596.00 | 596.00 |
| Check | 03/04/2018 | 138 | Vincent Duenas | HD (Office Chairs/Supplies) | 379.53 | 975.53 |
| Check | 03/04/2018 | 139 | Vincent Duenas | Ross (Office Furn) Pillows | 60.46 | 1,035.99 |
| Check | 11/12/2018 | 236 | Vincent Duenas | Storage Cubes (Amazon) | 155.81 | 1,191.80 |
| Check | 11/14/2018 | 244 | Vincent Duenas | Town House (Shelf) | 169.00 | 1,360.80 |
| Check | 12/14/2018 | 204 | Vincent Duenas | Amazon Swing | 91.03 | 1,451.83 |
| Check | 12/14/2018 | 205 | Vincent Duenas | Amazon Dividers | 58.05 | 1,509.88 |
| Total Small Equipment Purchases | | | | | 1,509.88 | 1,509.88 |
| Rent, Parking, Utilities | | | | | | |
| Check | 02/23/2018 | 190 | Guam Power Author... | Power | 534.00 | 534.00 |
| Check | 02/23/2018 | 191 | Guam Waterworks ... | Water | 92.00 | 626.00 |
| Check | 02/25/2018 | 192 | Vincent Duenas | Training Ctr Deposit Dos Amantes #216 Up... | 1,849.50 | 2,475.50 |
| Check | 04/09/2018 | 160 | Vincent Duenas | Office Utilities March | 437.67 | 2,913.17 |
| Check | 04/16/2018 | 168 | Guam Power Author... | Power/Training Ctr/March | 401.86 | 3,315.03 |
| Check | 05/15/2018 | 297 | Guam Power Author... | Autism Ctr Utilities | 365.12 | 3,680.15 |
| Check | 05/26/2018 | 299 | Vincent Duenas | GWA Dos Amantes | 29.85 | 3,710.00 |
| Check | 06/14/2018 | 253 | Guam Power Author... | Power | 380.16 | 4,090.16 |
| Check | 07/15/2018 | 258 | Guam Power Author... | Dos Amantes July | 397.87 | 4,488.03 |
| Check | 07/15/2018 | 254 | Vincent Duenas | GWA Dos Amantes June | 27.54 | 4,515.57 |
| Check | 07/15/2018 | 255 | Vincent Duenas | GWA Dos Amantes July | 25.77 | 4,541.34 |
| Check | 07/30/2018 | 257 | Vincent Duenas | Docomo Dos Amantes July | 114.99 | 4,656.33 |
| Check | 08/13/2018 | 261 | Guam Power Author... | Dos Amantes August | 282.98 | 4,939.31 |
| Check | 09/22/2018 | 265 | Guam Power Author... | Dos Amantes Sept | 284.10 | 5,223.41 |
| Check | 10/01/2018 | 271 | Vincent Duenas | GWA Dos Amantes Aug | 24.05 | 5,247.46 |
| Check | 10/01/2018 | 272 | Vincent Duenas | GWA Dos Amantes Sept | 24.19 | 5,271.65 |
| Check | 10/22/2018 | 227 | Guam Power Author... | Dos Amantes Oct | 264.82 | 5,536.47 |
| Check | 11/12/2018 | 239 | Guam Power Author... | Dos Amantes Nov | 270.97 | 5,807.44 |
| Check | 12/14/2018 | 202 | Vincent Duenas | GWA Dos Amantes | 49.81 | 5,857.25 |

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Accrual Basis

Hunterspeaks Organization
Profit & Loss Detail
 January 1, 2018 through March 25, 2019

| Type | Date | Num | Name | Memo | Amount | Balance |
|--|------------|---------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Check | 12/18/2018 | 207 | Guam Power Author... | Dos Amantes | 331.39 | 6,188.64 |
| Check | 01/09/2019 | 215 | Vincent Duenas | GWA Dos Amantes | 43.27 | 6,231.91 |
| Check | 01/13/2019 | 217 | Guam Power Author... | Dos Amantes | 293.40 | 6,525.31 |
| Total Rent, Parking, Utilities | | | | | 6,525.31 | 6,525.31 |
| Total Facilities and Equipment | | | | | 8,035.19 | 8,035.19 |
| Operations | | | | | | |
| Education and Training | | | | | | |
| Check | 01/08/2018 | WIRE... | | BCBA Services/RBT Training | 10,333.75 | 10,333.75 |
| Check | 03/12/2018 | 312 | | BCBA Services/RBT Training | 22,430.08 | 32,763.83 |
| Check | 05/01/2018 | 175 | Tiffany M. Rios | RBT Application/Test | 95.00 | 32,858.83 |
| Check | 05/08/2018 | 282 | Jenifer Blas | RBT Application/ Exam | 95.00 | 32,953.83 |
| Check | 05/08/2018 | 283 | Kristal Flores | RBT App/Exam | 95.00 | 33,048.83 |
| Check | 05/08/2018 | 284 | Teresa Blas | RBT App/Exam | 95.00 | 33,143.83 |
| Check | 05/08/2018 | 285 | BCBA Services | Final Deposit ATCC | 11,158.75 | 44,302.58 |
| Check | 05/14/2018 | 290 | Tiffany M. Rios | ABA Program Development | 392.50 | 44,695.08 |
| Check | 11/23/2018 | 241 | Vincent Duenas | Physiological Assessment | 35.00 | 44,730.08 |
| Check | 11/25/2018 | 240 | Vincent Duenas | HIPAA Training | 29.99 | 44,760.07 |
| Total Education and Training | | | | | 44,760.07 | 44,760.07 |
| Employee Benefits | | | | | | |
| Check | 07/24/2018 | 270 | Bank of Guam | Wire Transfer - Recruiting BCBA | 10,000.00 | 10,000.00 |
| Total Employee Benefits | | | | | 10,000.00 | 10,000.00 |
| Books, Subscriptions, Reference | | | | | | |
| Check | 03/04/2018 | 140 | Vincent Duenas | HS Website (Wix) | 150.00 | 150.00 |
| Check | 03/14/2018 | 145 | Vincent Duenas | Guam Times Financial Statement | 120.00 | 270.00 |
| Total Books, Subscriptions, Reference | | | | | 270.00 | 270.00 |
| Printing and Copying | | | | | | |
| Check | 12/07/2018 | 250 | Xerox Corporation | | 271.66 | 271.66 |
| Check | 01/23/2019 | 219 | Xerox Corporation | | 203.45 | 475.11 |
| Total Printing and Copying | | | | | 475.11 | 475.11 |
| Supplies | | | | | | |
| Check | 02/25/2018 | 195 | Vincent Duenas | Home Depot/Office Supplies | 154.70 | 154.70 |
| Check | 02/25/2018 | 196 | Vincent Duenas | National Office Supply | 27.23 | 181.93 |
| Check | 02/28/2018 | 126 | Vincent Duenas | HD Training CTR Supplies/ Trash Can | 60.17 | 242.10 |
| Check | 03/03/2018 | 135 | Vincent Duenas | Hafa Adai Signs (Decals) | 185.00 | 427.10 |
| Check | 03/03/2018 | 136 | Vincent Duenas | Ross (Training CTR Supplies) | 119.91 | 547.01 |
| Check | 03/12/2018 | 144 | Vincent Duenas | National, Loco Promos, HD | 213.07 | 760.08 |
| Check | 04/25/2018 | | Harland Clarke | Check Order | 27.55 | 787.63 |
| Check | 05/05/2018 | 278 | Vincent Duenas | Office Supplies | 118.22 | 905.85 |
| Check | 05/14/2018 | 288 | Inina LR Brown | Supply/Travel Reimbursement | 311.67 | 1,217.52 |
| Check | 05/16/2018 | 291 | Inina Plucer-Rosario | Supply/Travel Reimbursement | 311.67 | 1,529.19 |

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Accrual Basis

Hunterspeaks Organization
Profit & Loss Detail
January 1, 2018 through March 25, 2019

| Type | Date | Num | Name | Memo | Amount | Balance |
|--------------------------------------|------------|-----|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Check | 05/18/2018 | 296 | Vincent Duenas | BCBA Supplies | 219.98 | 1,749.17 |
| Check | 10/21/2018 | 228 | Vincent Duenas | Bag Tags | 91.25 | 1,840.42 |
| Check | 10/21/2018 | 229 | Vincent Duenas | Amazon Office Supplies | 607.09 | 2,447.51 |
| Check | 10/31/2018 | | Intuit | Checks | 113.58 | 2,561.09 |
| Check | 11/05/2018 | | Paypal | Paypal Inst Xfer | 26.99 | 2,588.08 |
| Check | 11/12/2018 | 235 | Vincent Duenas | VB - MAPP (AMAZON) | 64.24 | 2,652.32 |
| Check | 11/12/2018 | 237 | Vincent Duenas | Supplies - National | 94.92 | 2,747.24 |
| Check | 11/12/2018 | 238 | Vincent Duenas | Supplies - NEX | 170.05 | 2,917.29 |
| Check | 11/14/2018 | 245 | Vincent Duenas | First Aid Kit | 34.89 | 2,952.18 |
| Check | 11/18/2018 | 243 | Vincent Duenas | NEX Supplies | 229.92 | 3,182.10 |
| Check | 11/20/2018 | 246 | Vincent Duenas | Walmart Office Supplies | 202.37 | 3,384.47 |
| Check | 11/30/2018 | 201 | Tanya M. Duenas | Paper/printer/supplies | 27.84 | 3,412.31 |
| Check | 12/02/2018 | 248 | Vincent Duenas | Reimbursement Home Depot | 204.04 | 3,616.35 |
| Check | 12/05/2018 | | Paypal | Paypal Inst Xfer | 42.55 | 3,658.90 |
| Check | 12/12/2018 | | Harland Clarke | Check Order | 27.55 | 3,686.45 |
| Check | 12/14/2018 | | Paypal | Paypal Inst Xfer | 39.83 | 3,726.28 |
| Check | 12/14/2018 | 203 | Vincent Duenas | National Office Supply | 52.76 | 3,779.04 |
| Check | 12/18/2018 | 210 | Vincent Duenas | Office Supplies HD | 104.81 | 3,883.85 |
| Check | 12/21/2018 | | Paypal | Paypal Inst Xfer | 34.71 | 3,918.56 |
| Check | 01/02/2019 | 212 | Vincent Duenas | Office Supplies HD | 63.95 | 3,982.51 |
| Check | 01/02/2019 | 213 | Vincent Duenas | Office Supplies National | 69.95 | 4,052.46 |
| Check | 01/03/2019 | 214 | Vincent Duenas | Office Supplies National | 16.76 | 4,069.22 |
| Check | 01/08/2019 | 216 | Vincent Duenas | Supplies Shop 4 Less | 72.66 | 4,141.88 |
| Total Supplies | | | | | 4,141.88 | 4,141.88 |
| Telephone, Telecommunications | | | | | | |
| Check | 05/05/2018 | 277 | Vincent Duenas | Office Internet April | 226.28 | 226.28 |
| Check | 05/25/2018 | 298 | Vincent Duenas | Docomo Dos Amantes | 114.99 | 341.27 |
| Check | 07/15/2018 | 256 | Vincent Duenas | Docomo Dos Amantes June | 114.99 | 456.26 |
| Check | 10/01/2018 | 268 | Vincent Duenas | Docomo Dos Amantes Aug | 114.99 | 571.25 |
| Check | 10/01/2018 | 269 | Vincent Duenas | Docomo Dos Amantes Sept | 116.10 | 687.35 |
| Check | 10/28/2018 | 231 | Vincent Duenas | Docomo Dos Amantes Oct | 116.10 | 803.45 |
| Check | 11/24/2018 | 242 | Vincent Duenas | Docomo Dos Amantes | 116.10 | 919.55 |
| Check | 12/26/2018 | 208 | Vincent Duenas | Docomo Dos Amantes | 116.10 | 1,035.65 |
| Total Telephone, Telecommunications | | | | | 1,035.65 | 1,035.65 |
| Total Operations | | | | | 60,682.71 | 60,682.71 |

Hunterspeaks Organization
Profit & Loss Detail
 January 1, 2018 through March 25, 2019

| Type | Date | Num | Name | Memo | Amount | Balance |
|--------------------------------|------------|--------|------------------------|--|----------|-----------|
| Other Types of Expenses | | | | | | |
| Bank Service Charges | | | | | | |
| Check | 08/09/2018 | | | Merch Services Billing | 14.95 | 14.95 |
| Liability Check | 12/06/2018 | | QuickBooks Payroll ... | Fee for 3 direct deposit(s) at \$1.75 each | 5.25 | 20.20 |
| Liability Check | 12/11/2018 | | QuickBooks Payroll ... | Fee for 1 direct deposit(s) at \$1.75 each | 1.75 | 21.95 |
| Liability Check | 12/20/2018 | | QuickBooks Payroll ... | Fee for 3 direct deposit(s) at \$1.75 each | 5.25 | 27.20 |
| Liability Check | 01/03/2019 | | QuickBooks Payroll ... | Fee for 3 direct deposit(s) at \$1.75 each | 5.25 | 32.45 |
| Total Bank Service Charges | | | | | 32.45 | 32.45 |
| Total Other Types of Expenses | | | | | 32.45 | 32.45 |
| Payroll Expenses | | | | | | |
| Salaries and Wages | | | | | | |
| Paycheck | 11/21/2018 | 10001 | Inina LR Brown | | 5,768.80 | 5,768.80 |
| Paycheck | 11/21/2018 | 10002 | Jacklyn D. Canada | | 105.00 | 5,873.80 |
| Paycheck | 11/21/2018 | 10002 | Jacklyn D. Canada | | 145.75 | 6,019.55 |
| Paycheck | 11/21/2018 | 10003 | Tiffany M. Rios | | 327.50 | 6,347.05 |
| Paycheck | 11/21/2018 | 10003 | Tiffany M. Rios | | 495.00 | 6,842.05 |
| Paycheck | 12/07/2018 | DD1001 | Inina LR Brown | Direct Deposit | 5,768.80 | 12,610.85 |
| Paycheck | 12/07/2018 | DD1002 | Jacklyn D. Canada | Direct Deposit | 72.50 | 12,683.35 |
| Paycheck | 12/07/2018 | DD1002 | Jacklyn D. Canada | Direct Deposit | 93.50 | 12,776.85 |
| Paycheck | 12/07/2018 | DD1002 | Jacklyn D. Canada | Direct Deposit | 270.00 | 13,046.85 |
| Paycheck | 12/07/2018 | DD1003 | Tiffany M. Rios | Direct Deposit | 160.00 | 13,206.85 |
| Paycheck | 12/07/2018 | DD1003 | Tiffany M. Rios | Direct Deposit | 395.00 | 13,601.85 |
| Paycheck | 12/12/2018 | DD1004 | Inina LR Brown | Direct Deposit | 5,768.80 | 19,370.65 |
| Paycheck | 12/21/2018 | DD1005 | Inina LR Brown | Direct Deposit | 5,768.80 | 25,139.45 |
| Paycheck | 12/21/2018 | DD1006 | Jacklyn D. Canada | Direct Deposit | 248.33 | 25,387.78 |
| Paycheck | 12/21/2018 | DD1006 | Jacklyn D. Canada | Direct Deposit | 535.00 | 25,922.78 |
| Paycheck | 12/21/2018 | DD1007 | Tiffany M. Rios | Direct Deposit | 311.67 | 26,234.45 |
| Paycheck | 12/21/2018 | DD1007 | Tiffany M. Rios | Direct Deposit | 435.00 | 26,669.45 |
| Paycheck | 01/04/2019 | DD1008 | Inina LR Brown | Direct Deposit | 5,768.80 | 32,438.25 |
| Paycheck | 01/04/2019 | DD1009 | Jacklyn D. Canada | Direct Deposit | 65.00 | 32,503.25 |
| Paycheck | 01/04/2019 | DD1009 | Jacklyn D. Canada | Direct Deposit | 800.00 | 33,303.25 |
| Paycheck | 01/04/2019 | DD1010 | Tiffany M. Rios | Direct Deposit | 65.00 | 33,368.25 |
| Paycheck | 01/04/2019 | DD1010 | Tiffany M. Rios | Direct Deposit | 680.00 | 34,048.25 |
| Paycheck | 01/18/2019 | DD1011 | Inina LR Brown | Direct Deposit | 5,768.80 | 39,817.05 |
| Paycheck | 01/18/2019 | DD1012 | Jacklyn D. Canada | Direct Deposit | 117.50 | 39,934.55 |
| Paycheck | 01/18/2019 | DD1012 | Jacklyn D. Canada | Direct Deposit | 870.00 | 40,804.55 |
| Paycheck | 01/18/2019 | DD1013 | Tiffany M. Rios | Direct Deposit | 125.00 | 40,929.55 |
| Paycheck | 01/18/2019 | DD1013 | Tiffany M. Rios | Direct Deposit | 1,010.00 | 41,939.55 |
| Paycheck | 02/01/2019 | 10006 | Camille M. Paulino. | | 115.00 | 42,054.55 |
| Paycheck | 02/01/2019 | 10006 | Camille M. Paulino. | | 88.00 | 42,142.55 |
| Paycheck | 02/04/2019 | DD1014 | Inina LR Brown | Direct Deposit | 5,768.80 | 47,911.35 |
| Paycheck | 02/04/2019 | DD1015 | Jacklyn D. Canada | Direct Deposit | 70.00 | 47,981.35 |
| Paycheck | 02/04/2019 | DD1015 | Jacklyn D. Canada | Direct Deposit | 800.00 | 48,781.35 |
| Paycheck | 02/04/2019 | DD1016 | Tiffany M. Rios | Direct Deposit | 60.00 | 48,841.35 |
| Paycheck | 02/04/2019 | DD1016 | Tiffany M. Rios | Direct Deposit | 300.00 | 49,141.35 |
| Paycheck | 02/15/2019 | DD1017 | Inina LR Brown | Direct Deposit | 5,768.80 | 54,910.15 |

Hunterspeaks Organization
Profit & Loss Detail
 January 1, 2018 through March 25, 2019

| Type | Date | Num | Name | Memo | Amount | Balance |
|--------------------------|------------|--------|------------------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|
| Paycheck | 02/15/2019 | DD1018 | Jacklyn D. Canada | Direct Deposit | 37.50 | 54,947.65 |
| Paycheck | 02/15/2019 | DD1018 | Jacklyn D. Canada | Direct Deposit | 987.50 | 55,935.15 |
| Paycheck | 02/15/2019 | DD1019 | Tiffany M. Rios | Direct Deposit | 112.50 | 56,047.65 |
| Paycheck | 02/15/2019 | DD1019 | Tiffany M. Rios | Direct Deposit | 670.00 | 56,717.65 |
| Paycheck | 02/15/2019 | | Camille M. Paulino. | Direct Deposit | 160.00 | 56,877.65 |
| Paycheck | 02/15/2019 | | Camille M. Paulino. | Direct Deposit | 33.00 | 56,910.65 |
| Paycheck | 02/15/2019 | | Camille M. Paulino. | Direct Deposit | 230.00 | 57,140.65 |
| Paycheck | 03/01/2019 | DD1020 | Camille M. Paulino. | Direct Deposit | 35.00 | 57,175.65 |
| Paycheck | 03/01/2019 | DD1020 | Camille M. Paulino. | Direct Deposit | 825.00 | 58,000.65 |
| Paycheck | 03/01/2019 | DD1021 | Inina LR Brown | Direct Deposit | 5,768.80 | 63,769.45 |
| Paycheck | 03/01/2019 | DD1022 | Jacklyn D. Canada | Direct Deposit | 103.33 | 63,872.78 |
| Paycheck | 03/01/2019 | DD1022 | Jacklyn D. Canada | Direct Deposit | 1,262.50 | 65,135.28 |
| Paycheck | 03/01/2019 | DD1023 | Tiffany M. Rios | Direct Deposit | 84.17 | 65,219.45 |
| Paycheck | 03/01/2019 | DD1023 | Tiffany M. Rios | Direct Deposit | 1,040.00 | 66,259.45 |
| Paycheck | 03/15/2019 | DD1024 | Camille M. Paulino. | Direct Deposit | 35.00 | 66,294.45 |
| Paycheck | 03/15/2019 | DD1024 | Camille M. Paulino. | Direct Deposit | 550.00 | 66,844.45 |
| Paycheck | 03/15/2019 | DD1025 | Inina LR Brown | Direct Deposit | 5,768.80 | 72,613.25 |
| Paycheck | 03/15/2019 | DD1026 | Jacklyn D. Canada | Direct Deposit | 75.00 | 72,688.25 |
| Paycheck | 03/15/2019 | DD1026 | Jacklyn D. Canada | Direct Deposit | 1,206.25 | 73,894.50 |
| Paycheck | 03/15/2019 | DD1028 | Tiffany M. Rios | Direct Deposit | 67.50 | 73,962.00 |
| Paycheck | 03/15/2019 | DD1028 | Tiffany M. Rios | Direct Deposit | 1,090.00 | 75,052.00 |
| Paycheck | 03/15/2019 | DD1027 | Jhaymie Lynn S. Bej... | Direct Deposit | 90.00 | 75,142.00 |
| Paycheck | 03/15/2019 | DD1027 | Jhaymie Lynn S. Bej... | Direct Deposit | 103.22 | 75,245.22 |
| Total Salaries and Wages | | | | | 75,245.22 | 75,245.22 |
| Payroll Taxes | | | | | | |
| Paycheck | 11/21/2018 | 10001 | Inina LR Brown | | 357.67 | 357.67 |
| Paycheck | 11/21/2018 | 10001 | Inina LR Brown | | 83.65 | 441.32 |
| Paycheck | 11/21/2018 | 10002 | Jacklyn D. Canada | | 15.55 | 456.87 |
| Paycheck | 11/21/2018 | 10002 | Jacklyn D. Canada | | 3.64 | 460.51 |
| Paycheck | 11/21/2018 | 10003 | Tiffany M. Rios | | 51.00 | 511.51 |
| Paycheck | 11/21/2018 | 10003 | Tiffany M. Rios | | 11.93 | 523.44 |
| Paycheck | 12/07/2018 | DD1001 | Inina LR Brown | Direct Deposit | 357.66 | 881.10 |
| Paycheck | 12/07/2018 | DD1001 | Inina LR Brown | Direct Deposit | 83.65 | 964.75 |
| Paycheck | 12/07/2018 | DD1002 | Jacklyn D. Canada | Direct Deposit | 27.03 | 991.78 |
| Paycheck | 12/07/2018 | DD1002 | Jacklyn D. Canada | Direct Deposit | 6.32 | 998.10 |
| Paycheck | 12/07/2018 | DD1003 | Tiffany M. Rios | Direct Deposit | 34.41 | 1,032.51 |
| Paycheck | 12/07/2018 | DD1003 | Tiffany M. Rios | Direct Deposit | 8.04 | 1,040.55 |
| Paycheck | 12/12/2018 | DD1004 | Inina LR Brown | Direct Deposit | 357.67 | 1,398.22 |
| Paycheck | 12/12/2018 | DD1004 | Inina LR Brown | Direct Deposit | 83.64 | 1,481.86 |
| Paycheck | 12/21/2018 | DD1005 | Inina LR Brown | Direct Deposit | 357.66 | 1,839.52 |
| Paycheck | 12/21/2018 | DD1005 | Inina LR Brown | Direct Deposit | 83.65 | 1,923.17 |
| Paycheck | 12/21/2018 | DD1006 | Jacklyn D. Canada | Direct Deposit | 48.56 | 1,971.73 |
| Paycheck | 12/21/2018 | DD1006 | Jacklyn D. Canada | Direct Deposit | 11.36 | 1,983.09 |
| Paycheck | 12/21/2018 | DD1007 | Tiffany M. Rios | Direct Deposit | 46.29 | 2,029.38 |
| Paycheck | 12/21/2018 | DD1007 | Tiffany M. Rios | Direct Deposit | 10.83 | 2,040.21 |
| Paycheck | 01/04/2019 | DD1008 | Inina LR Brown | Direct Deposit | 357.67 | 2,397.88 |
| Paycheck | 01/04/2019 | DD1008 | Inina LR Brown | Direct Deposit | 83.65 | 2,481.53 |

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Accrual Basis

Hunterspeaks Organization
Profit & Loss Detail
 January 1, 2018 through March 25, 2019

| Type | Date | Num | Name | Memo | Amount | Balance |
|---------------------|------------|--------|------------------------|----------------|----------|----------|
| Paycheck | 01/04/2019 | DD1009 | Jacklyn D. Canada | Direct Deposit | 53.63 | 2,535.16 |
| Paycheck | 01/04/2019 | DD1009 | Jacklyn D. Canada | Direct Deposit | 12.54 | 2,547.70 |
| Paycheck | 01/04/2019 | DD1010 | Tiffany M. Rios | Direct Deposit | 46.19 | 2,593.89 |
| Paycheck | 01/04/2019 | DD1010 | Tiffany M. Rios | Direct Deposit | 10.80 | 2,604.69 |
| Paycheck | 01/18/2019 | DD1011 | Inina LR Brown | Direct Deposit | 357.66 | 2,962.35 |
| Paycheck | 01/18/2019 | DD1011 | Inina LR Brown | Direct Deposit | 83.65 | 3,046.00 |
| Paycheck | 01/18/2019 | DD1012 | Jacklyn D. Canada | Direct Deposit | 61.23 | 3,107.23 |
| Paycheck | 01/18/2019 | DD1012 | Jacklyn D. Canada | Direct Deposit | 14.32 | 3,121.55 |
| Paycheck | 01/18/2019 | DD1013 | Tiffany M. Rios | Direct Deposit | 70.37 | 3,191.92 |
| Paycheck | 01/18/2019 | DD1013 | Tiffany M. Rios | Direct Deposit | 16.46 | 3,208.38 |
| Paycheck | 02/01/2019 | 10006 | Camille M. Paulino. | | 12.59 | 3,220.97 |
| Paycheck | 02/01/2019 | 10006 | Camille M. Paulino. | | 2.94 | 3,223.91 |
| Paycheck | 02/04/2019 | DD1014 | Inina LR Brown | Direct Deposit | 357.67 | 3,581.58 |
| Paycheck | 02/04/2019 | DD1014 | Inina LR Brown | Direct Deposit | 83.64 | 3,665.22 |
| Paycheck | 02/04/2019 | DD1015 | Jacklyn D. Canada | Direct Deposit | 53.94 | 3,719.16 |
| Paycheck | 02/04/2019 | DD1015 | Jacklyn D. Canada | Direct Deposit | 12.62 | 3,731.78 |
| Paycheck | 02/04/2019 | DD1016 | Tiffany M. Rios | Direct Deposit | 22.32 | 3,754.10 |
| Paycheck | 02/04/2019 | DD1016 | Tiffany M. Rios | Direct Deposit | 5.22 | 3,759.32 |
| Paycheck | 02/15/2019 | DD1017 | Inina LR Brown | Direct Deposit | 357.66 | 4,116.98 |
| Paycheck | 02/15/2019 | DD1017 | Inina LR Brown | Direct Deposit | 83.65 | 4,200.63 |
| Paycheck | 02/15/2019 | DD1018 | Jacklyn D. Canada | Direct Deposit | 63.55 | 4,264.18 |
| Paycheck | 02/15/2019 | DD1018 | Jacklyn D. Canada | Direct Deposit | 14.86 | 4,279.04 |
| Paycheck | 02/15/2019 | DD1019 | Tiffany M. Rios | Direct Deposit | 48.52 | 4,327.56 |
| Paycheck | 02/15/2019 | DD1019 | Tiffany M. Rios | Direct Deposit | 11.35 | 4,338.91 |
| Paycheck | 02/15/2019 | | Camille M. Paulino. | Direct Deposit | 26.22 | 4,365.13 |
| Paycheck | 02/15/2019 | | Camille M. Paulino. | Direct Deposit | 6.14 | 4,371.27 |
| Paycheck | 03/01/2019 | DD1020 | Camille M. Paulino. | Direct Deposit | 53.32 | 4,424.59 |
| Paycheck | 03/01/2019 | DD1020 | Camille M. Paulino. | Direct Deposit | 12.47 | 4,437.06 |
| Paycheck | 03/01/2019 | DD1021 | Inina LR Brown | Direct Deposit | 357.67 | 4,794.73 |
| Paycheck | 03/01/2019 | DD1021 | Inina LR Brown | Direct Deposit | 83.65 | 4,878.38 |
| Paycheck | 03/01/2019 | DD1022 | Jacklyn D. Canada | Direct Deposit | 84.68 | 4,963.06 |
| Paycheck | 03/01/2019 | DD1022 | Jacklyn D. Canada | Direct Deposit | 19.80 | 4,982.86 |
| Paycheck | 03/01/2019 | DD1023 | Tiffany M. Rios | Direct Deposit | 69.69 | 5,052.55 |
| Paycheck | 03/01/2019 | DD1023 | Tiffany M. Rios | Direct Deposit | 16.30 | 5,068.85 |
| Paycheck | 03/15/2019 | DD1024 | Camille M. Paulino. | Direct Deposit | 36.27 | 5,105.12 |
| Paycheck | 03/15/2019 | DD1024 | Camille M. Paulino. | Direct Deposit | 8.48 | 5,113.60 |
| Paycheck | 03/15/2019 | DD1025 | Inina LR Brown | Direct Deposit | 357.66 | 5,471.26 |
| Paycheck | 03/15/2019 | DD1025 | Inina LR Brown | Direct Deposit | 83.65 | 5,554.91 |
| Paycheck | 03/15/2019 | DD1026 | Jacklyn D. Canada | Direct Deposit | 79.43 | 5,634.34 |
| Paycheck | 03/15/2019 | DD1026 | Jacklyn D. Canada | Direct Deposit | 18.58 | 5,652.92 |
| Paycheck | 03/15/2019 | DD1028 | Tiffany M. Rios | Direct Deposit | 71.77 | 5,724.69 |
| Paycheck | 03/15/2019 | DD1028 | Tiffany M. Rios | Direct Deposit | 16.78 | 5,741.47 |
| Paycheck | 03/15/2019 | DD1027 | Jhaymie Lynn S. Bej... | Direct Deposit | 11.98 | 5,753.45 |
| Paycheck | 03/15/2019 | DD1027 | Jhaymie Lynn S. Bej... | Direct Deposit | 2.80 | 5,756.25 |
| Total Payroll Taxes | | | | | 5,756.25 | 5,756.25 |

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Accrual Basis

Hunterspeaks Organization
Profit & Loss Detail
 January 1, 2018 through March 25, 2019

| Type | Date | Num | Name | Memo | Amount | Balance |
|---------------------------------|------------|-----|------------------------|--|------------------|------------------|
| Payroll Expenses - Other | | | | | | |
| Liability Check | 02/01/2019 | | QuickBooks Payroll ... | Fee for 3 direct deposit(s) at \$1.75 each | 5.25 | 5.25 |
| Liability Check | 02/14/2019 | | QuickBooks Payroll ... | Fee for 3 direct deposit(s) at \$1.75 each | 5.25 | 10.50 |
| Liability Check | 02/14/2019 | | QuickBooks Payroll ... | Fee for 1 direct deposit(s) at \$1.75 each | 1.75 | 12.25 |
| Liability Check | 02/28/2019 | | QuickBooks Payroll ... | Fee for 4 direct deposit(s) at \$1.75 each | 7.00 | 19.25 |
| Liability Check | 03/14/2019 | | QuickBooks Payroll ... | Fee for 5 direct deposit(s) at \$1.75 each | 8.75 | 28.00 |
| Total Payroll Expenses - Other | | | | | 28.00 | 28.00 |
| Total Payroll Expenses | | | | | 81,029.47 | 81,029.47 |
| Travel and Meetings | | | | | | |
| Travel | | | | | | |
| Check | 03/28/2018 | 150 | Vincent Duenas | United Flight Reimbursement Inina Brown | 1,850.05 | 1,850.05 |
| Total Travel | | | | | 1,850.05 | 1,850.05 |
| Total Travel and Meetings | | | | | 1,850.05 | 1,850.05 |
| Total Expense | | | | | 157,629.87 | 157,629.87 |
| Net Ordinary Income | | | | | -7,629.87 | -7,629.87 |
| Net Income | | | | | -7,629.87 | -7,629.87 |



SENATOR JOE S. SAN AGUSTIN

Chairman, Committee on General Government Operations,
Appropriations and Housing

I Mina' trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guåhan - Thirty-Fifth Guam Legislature

COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

I. OVERVIEW

Bill No. 68-35 (COR) was introduced on March 20, 2019 by Therese M. Terlaje, and was subsequently referred to the Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations and Housing on April 1, 2019.

The Committee on General Operations, Appropriations and Housing convened a joint public hearing with the Committee on Health, Tourism, Historic Preservation, Land and Justice on Monday, April 15, 2019 at 9:10 AM in *I Liheslatura's* Public Hearing Room.

Public Notice Requirements

Notices were disseminated via e-mail to all senators and all main media broadcasting outlets on Friday, April 5, 2019 and again on Thursday, April 11, 2019. The notice was also published in the Guam Daily Post on April 8, 2019 and again on April 12, 2019.

Senators Present

Senator Joe S. San Agustin, Chairperson of the Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing

Senator Therese M. Terlaje, Chairperson of the Committee on Health, Tourism, Historic Preservation, Land, and Justice

Senator Sabina Flores Perez, Vice-Chairperson of Committee on Health, Tourism, Historic Preservation, Land, and Justice

Senator Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Member, Committee on General
Operations, Appropriations, and Housing
Senator James C. Moylan, Member, Committee on Health, Tourism,
Historic Preservation, Land, and Justice
Senator Telo Taitague

Appearing Before the Committee:

Vincent Dueñas, M.D.
Pamela S. Quinata
Tiffany Rios
Camille Paulino
Jacklyn Canada
Teresa Cruz Blas
Isa Marie Cruz Koki

Submitted Written Testimony

Teresa Cruz Blas
Jacklyn Canada
Frank Campillo, Health Plan Administrator, Select Care
Vincent Dueñas, M.D.
Isa Marie Cruz Koki
Camille Paulino
Tiffany Rios
Sophia-Mae Sgambelluri Quinata
Michael Um, M.D.

II. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY & DISCUSSION

The public hearing was Called-to-Order at 9:10 AM.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin, Chairperson of the Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing called the public hearing to order at 9:10 AM. The Chairperson presented the agenda items that would be heard during the hearing. Bill 68-35 (COR) introduced by Senator Therese M. Terlaje- An Act to Appropriate One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) from the General Fund to the Department of Administration for Continued Operation of the Guam Autism Center was the first item on the agenda.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin:

Good Morning, this is a joint public hearing. The Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations, and Housing and the Committee on Health, Tourism, Historic Preservation, Land and Justice convenes this joint public hearing. Public Hearing Notices were given to the media on Friday, April 5, 2019 and on Thursday, April 11, 2019. For the record, today is Monday, April 15, 2019 and the time is now 9:10 AM.

The committee will hear and accept testimony both oral and written on the following: Bill 68-35 (COR) introduced by Senator Therese M. Terlaje- an act to appropriate one hundred and fifty thousand dollars from the General Fund to the Department of Administration for continued operation of the Guam Autism Center and Bill 66-35 (COR) introduced again by Senator Therese M. Terlaje- an act to amend section 2912 (p) of Article 9, Chapter 2 of Division 1, Title 10 Guam Code Annotated relative to increasing the age qualification and insurance cap amount for the treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder.

I'd like to acknowledge the senators that have joined us today. We have Speaker Tina Muña Barnes. We have Senators Sabina Perez and Senator Telo Taitague and also the author of the two bills, Senator Therese M. Terlaje.

The general rule for public hearings, the conduct of this public hearing shall be as follows:

- Those signed up to provide testimony shall be recognized in the order signed up on the sign-in sheet.
- Written testimony should be summarized to about five minutes.
- Written testimony shall be submitted to the committee. Please provide our legislative staff with your written testimony for photocopying.
- Testimony shall be confined to the substance.
- Individuals will be allowed to present oral testimony only once
- Once you are done you may be asked to remain in the room for questions or for additional testimony, as may be desired by the members of the panel.
- Proper forum and the decorum shall be practiced by all present during the public hearing room for the proceedings. Individuals who failed to maintain proper decorum may be restricted from providing oral testimony or may be asked to leave or be escorted and removed from the room.

Let me just advise, I know that the audience today are well aware of the proper decorum and form and I won't have to worry about escorting anybody out. When you speak, please make sure that the microphone is on and that you speak into the microphone and please state your name.

I've got Pamela Canada. Will you be speaking ma'am? Please come forward. We have Rios, Tiffany. Please come forward. As I call your name please come forward and have a seat in the front because you'll be speaking. We have Ms. Paulino. We have Ms. Canada, right? Cañada not Canada, right? It's Canada? Okay. On Guam it's Cañada. But okay, we understand. No problem Ms. Canada. We also have Dr. Vinny Dueñas, but

I guess he isn't... Were you going to speak [Dr. Vincent Dueñas]? Okay, you were the first one to sign in but you put an X versus everybody who put a checkmark. Must be because you're a doctor. I understand. I would now like to ask, before we begin any of your testimony, that the author of the bill please gives her opening remarks.

Senator Therese M. Terlaje:

Thank you. We decided to just do testimony on both bills at the same time, if that's okay with everyone? So, I'm going to just briefly introduce both of the bills.

The Centers for Disease Control calls autism the fastest-growing developmental disability. They estimate that it impacts 1 in 59 children in the United States.

A new analysis of the 2016 National Survey of Children's Health by the Autism Speaks organization found that nearly a fifth of children with autism have unmet health care needs. This contrasts to 9.6% of children with other disabilities and 2.6% of children without disabilities.

According to the National Survey, 93% of children with autism have one or more co-occurring health conditions, compared to 62% of children with us other disabilities. This finding is backed by considerable research associating autism with high rates of many medical and mental health issues including seizures, digestive disorders disruptive sleep, anxiety and depression, among others. Yet these complex medical needs were not the sole or even the primary driver behind the disparities in access to needed services, according to the analysis of the circumstances strongly associated with unmet healthcare needs among children with autism, were no or low quality health insurance was number one, followed by no access to family-centered care that includes families as partners in the child's healthcare,

adverse childhood conditions including family separation, divorce, physical emotional abuse and domestic violence in the home and parental challenges. So those are all the challenges to unmet health care needs. But the number one again I'm just repeating, is no or low quality health insurance. Upon realizing the need to increase the level of support for children and adults with autism spectrum disorder, many states have already adjusted insurance coverage.

Two examples are, in January 2018 Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi United Healthcare of Mississippi and Magnolia Health voluntarily agreed to lift the age cap of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy in the Mississippi autism mandate. In March 2019 Governor Ralph Northam of Virginia signed a bill that removed the age cap completely for autism coverage. It expands healthcare access for nearly 10,000 Virginians of all ages living with autism. Presently Public Law 34-6 also known as Hunter's Law, mandates the maximum benefit of \$50,000 per year for an eligible person of up to the age of 9, and limits the treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder to a \$25,000 maximum benefit per year for an eligible person who is between the ages of 9 and 21. So, Bill 66 -35 seeks to amend Public Law 34-6, Hunter's Law to widen the age range and increase health insurance coverage to Seventy-five Thousand (\$75,000) maximum benefit per year, for an eligible person up to the age of 15. So it raises the age from 9 to 15 and increases the benefit to Seventy-five thousand (\$75,000), and it would give the benefit of Twenty-five Thousand (\$25,000) to those persons between the ages of 16 and 21.

According to the Guam Autism Center, the care needs of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder vary with some needing additional therapy hours than current insurance caps under Hunter's Law may provide. So Bill 66-35 (COR), by extending insurance coverage, will help make autism services accessible and provide for the higher quality of support and care for the families and children that deserve these services.

Bill 68-35 (COR) is to appropriate a hundred and fifty thousand dollars from the General Fund to the Department of Administration for the continued operation of the Guam Autism Center.

In 2016, Public Law 33-227 authorized the construction of a DISID Business Center and One Stop Community Resource and Wellness Center, designating space for a comprehensive autism center. The space was to be leased at a negotiated rate not to exceed fair market value, to a not for profit organization whose mission is to provide a comprehensive autism center where children and families affected by autism spectrum disorder may receive appropriate services in a centralized location. The Guam Economic Development Authority was to issue an RFP to select a lessee.

In FY 2018, still pending the construction of the DISID Business Center and One Stop Community Resource and Wellness Center, the 34th Guam Legislature, pursuant to P.L. 34-42 allocated \$150,000 as an initial investment to stand up a program to the Hunter Speaks non-profit organization who would provide autism services at a temporary location.

The Hunter Speaks non-profit org. continues to facilitate the Guam Autism Center and provide needed diagnostic and treatment services to families w/ children on the autism spectrum.

It has been established that the earlier the diagnosis of ASD and the earlier a child received treatment will yield the best results and outcome.

Although children experiencing disabilities or differences can expect specialized education programs through the Department of Education, professional intervention in terms of diagnosis and early intervention should occur at the earliest of ages. It is established that many children with some form of disorder can be diagnosed as early as the age of two (2).

The Guam Autism Center is the first service provider on Guam providing applied behavior analysis therapy or ABA an evidence-based and gold standard therapy model. Prior to the opening of the Guam Autism Center,

families with autistic children had to make difficult choices regarding whether to leave off island to seek necessary services for their children or whether to return home because of the challenges in seeking services.

The FY18 appropriation was utilized to provide training of technicians, recruitment, pay operational cost, etc. and runs out this month.

Hunter Speaks has also started billing health insurance under Hunter's Law as a means of long-term sustainability. However, the organization estimates that it will take approximately two (2) years.

It is therefore the intent of Bill 68-35 (COR) to provide the additional financial support needed to keep the doors of the Guam Autism Center open and operational.

So, it would extend the \$150,000 and repeat that in FY 19, which is our current fiscal year. And the good news is that we saw that the Governor had included a \$150,000 appropriation into the 2020 fiscal year's budget. Thank you Mr. Chair.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin:

Dr. Dueñas, thank you for showing up because I as you notice, I'm the only male up front. Women surround me, and you so happened to sign up first. So you lead the woman. All right doctor, you will start and then after that we'll go to everybody to your right. I like to also recognize Miss Teresa Crisostomo. She's supposed to join us because she did sign in for speaking on this bill.

And if you want, Dr. Dueñas because you signed up, pretty much most of you have all signed up to speak on both bills, so you can go ahead and speak about both because they are both related.

Vincent S. Dueñas, MD :

Okay, thank you. Håfa Adai Speaker and Senators. My name is Dr. Vincent Dueñas and I'm here today to provide testimony in support of bill 68-35 (COR) as well as Bill 66-35 (COR). First and foremost I would just like to start off by thanking you all for hearing my concerns, both as a parent of a young autistic boy, hunter, as well as an advocate and leader in the autism community. I want to thank Senator Terlaje for taking on the challenge of introducing such critical pieces of legislation, that if passed, will be monumental to the future of our islands children suffering from Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). As many of you know, ASD is one of the most prevalent and debilitating disorders that exists today. One in 59 kids in the United States will fall on the autism spectrum. That's one in 42 boys and one in 189 girls. With those staggering odds, it is likely that every one of us here in this room will at some point, if not already, be touched by someone with the diagnosis.

When my wife and I first found out about Hunter, it was a terrifying thing for us not knowing what his future would hold, not having anyone to help navigate the maze of challenges we soon would face as a young family. We went through the motions here on Guam and just and found just scarce resources at best. Our only option after years of searching was to leave the beautiful island we called home. We eventually ventured to Hawaii and toured an amazing autism center, which we planned to enroll Hunter in full time. After seeing the kids there and the quality of care they were receiving, it troubled us that the children on Guam didn't have the same access, didn't have access to the same wonderful opportunities as everyone else.

We were then faced with the dilemma of relocating and ignoring what was going on versus staying and sacrificing our only son. I think our choice is obvious and what led to the formation of Hunter Speaks. The organization has worked tirelessly the past three years, executing our strategic plan to

improve services on the island. We have made tremendous progress with the help of our government leaders, past and present, as well as those in the private sector and community members. We were able to recruit Guam's first Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA) and two (2) registered Behavior Technicians, as well as trained a handful more.

There is still so much work to be done, but definitely light at the end of the tunnel. In November of 2018, we opened our doors at the temporary Autism Center in upper Tumon, providing ABA therapy for the first time on island. We now service six (6) clients in a pilot program and hope to grow as quickly as possible.

Of the 260 children we've identified already, it is only a fraction of what needs to be. But everything good has to start somewhere. Getting our island up to speed with the rest of the world, is an enormous task and we're certainly up for the challenge. But we can't do it alone. I plead with you today to trust in our organization to get the job done and pray for your support of this bill. Thank you.

I didn't know that we are providing testimony for both bills, so if it's okay I just had an additional statement to make regarding ABA, specifically Applied Behavior Analysis is the most widely adopted and proven form of treatment for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder and remains the gold standard in the United States.

It's a data-driven methods endorsed by the US Surgeon General, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Medical Association. Most children on the spectrum require early intensive behavior intervention. Roughly 25 to 40 hours per week and can make tremendous strides with it. The current stipulations under Hunters Law allows for an average of only 15 to 17 hours of therapy a week for children zero (0) to nine (9) and merely half of that for those nine (9) to twenty-one (21). Although it was a great start and critical to bringing ABA therapy to

Guam, the present dollar cap and age restrictions severely limit access to much needed care resulting in sub-optimal treatment and slower, less desirable progress. As an organization, we understand the financial burden this increase in coverage can have on our island smaller insurance companies and the community as a whole. However, intervening early not only will improve the quality of life for the child and their family, but may also lead to significant cost savings in the long run by reducing the need for lifetime therapy, special education and public schools and other government support services such as housing and health care, as these children reach adulthood.

Although many states have moved toward eliminating the dollar limits entirely like Senator Terlaje mentioned, we realized that Guam, in our unique situation might not be able to sustain those costs. We feel that raising the dollar limit to 75 thousand per year, a roughly fifty percent (50%) increase from present will create a happy medium in general.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin:

Thank You doc. I'd like to also recognize those who just joined us, Senator Jim Moylan and also would also like to recognize that Isa Koki. Okay Ma'am, you're next.

Pamela S. Quinata:

If I'd known I signed in second to be second up, I would have signed in last. Here I am.

[See Attached Testimony read on behalf of daughter, Sophia-Mae Sgambelluri Quinata]

I also was not aware about the second bill but I also concur with everything that Dr.. Vince Dueñas had said earlier for the bill. A \$25,000 cap would be, I think a good ground. A lot of the families in Guam are sorely in need of help. Medical help and insurance would really be a big help. Thank you

Senator Joe S. San Agustin:

Thank you. Ma'am, take a deep breath you're next.

Tiffany Rios:

[See Attached Testimony]

Senator Joe S. San Agustin:

Thank you Miss Rios and thank you for your service. Ma'am.

Camile Paulino:

[See Attached Testimony]

Senator Joe S. San Agustin:

Thank you Ms. Paulino. Yes, breath in, breathe out. You're next Ma'am.

Jacklyn Canada:

[See Attached Testimony]

Senator Joe S. San Agustin:

Thank you Ms. Canada and thank you also for your service. Ms. Cruz Blas.

Teressa Cruz Blas:

[See Attached Testimony]

Senator Joe S. San Agustin:

Thank you. Ms. Koki.

Isa Marie Cruz Koki:

[See Attached Testimony]

Senator Joe S. San Agustin:

Thank you ladies. If we can just make sure that before you leave, you provide us a copy of your testimony, so it'd be part of the committee's report. I will now ask the Speaker if she has any questions she wants to pose to the panel.

Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes:

Si Yu'os Ma'åse' Mr. Chair. and Senator Terlaje for having these joint public hearings this morning for Bills 66-35 (COR) and 68-35 (COR). I just want to take this time to extend my thank you to each and every one of you. As we heard your stories, as we heard the support, we've heard the leadership that you guys have done to bring this awareness out to our community.

As we support ASD this month of April, I just want to take the time that it is through your efforts and your leadership that Guam continues to better understand what our children and our families go through and experience and I want to say that I know that in our community a lot of times resources is the key and answer to everything. And it's what can we do to leverage or what can we do to continue to provide resources for the programs that is gravely needed here on Guam?

And my take is I was sitting and asking the author if I could help co-sponsor this with her and literally try to go one extra step in and step out of the box. When I talked to Dr. Vince earlier a month and a half ago maybe I said what can we do to leverage and seek other grant resources that could help us? And I want to say I stand committed to that. I want to say that I support Senator Therese, Senator San Agustin and the efforts of pushing this forward. I know it's not easy and I know that some may say that whether we ask for a hundred and fifty thousand (\$150,000) or ask to increase that, we know that just based on the population, that there are more families out there that are probably going on diagnosed and we need to continue to step up and do better.

And I want to say that as your servant and as a policymaker it's important that we continue to keep the stories going, share the stories and also help us compile the data so that we could be better able to utilize and leverage it so again we can look for additional funding. And maybe that's one question I'd like to ask Dr. Vince Dueñas. If there is data compiled since the inception of Hunter Speaks that we could help that it could help utilize, that we could utilize to bring and seek for additional service whether it be

through our general fund or special services but also look for alternative grants out there within the federal government or with nonprofit other nonprofit organizations so that we can move forward to give the program that our families need, to be at it's hundred percent capacity?

Vincent Dueñas, MD:

Yeah, definitely I think we when we met a while back we did talk about this a little bit and the data is out there and just tracked through either Guam early intervention or through DOE. From the organization standpoint we have been having trouble access that data and I'm not sure what the hesitancy has been with some of the other organizations, like Guam Early Intervention. But we do know that the data exists and we just may need a little bit of help accessing that that data to be able to analyze what the true numbers are. In the clinic, we definitely have data with regard to the clients that we treat. But in terms of Guam as a whole in our entire population, we don't have all the numbers that that we would want.

Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes:

Is there a waiting list for those wanting to work closely with Hunter Speaks in the program that it has for our community?

Vincent Dueñas, M.D.:

There is a list there is a wait list and because the therapy is so intensive each technician here is only able to service about one to two kids and it knows our hope in moving forward with the funding and everything we're going to be able to train more and more technicians, so that we can intake as many kids as possible.

We do have a waitlist and we access the waitlist based on medical necessity. And so as we grow our staff, we pull clients off the list as we're able to accommodate.

Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes:

Thank you Mr. chair and Senator Terlaje. I want to say that I support the efforts. I wholeheartedly support it. I hope that we can see how fast we can expeditiously work on this to get it on the agenda. I think it's important but more importantly, I think that if we can get assistance in helping look for the data that's necessary, I am almost positive that we can possibly work to try to tap into federal grants or other opportunities out within the national level that can help us get funding for Guam. So, if we can have that continued collaboration and I guess from our side, we will continue to engage with the government services to see what kind of information that we can put down to look for those resources.

Vincent Dueñas, MD:

Definitely.

Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes:

Thank you very much, and thank you Mr. chair.

Vincent Dueñas, MD:

Thank you.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin:

Thank You Speaker. I'll proceed to the end on my far right and start with Senator Moylan, Jim.

Senator James C. Moylan:

Thank You Mr. Chairman. I want to thank Senator Therese Terlaje for introducing these two bills, increasing the cap of the budget and also the ages of those that we're hearing the voices of today. I also want to thank the speakers today for letting us feel the voices of Amelia and Mason and Eli. It's very helpful to understand the situations for those who cannot express for themselves. But you did, you did express. Each one of you expressed it very well, so I truly appreciate that. I do understand the gold standard of Applied Behavioral Analysis and how it's a must and it has helped. And you express the direct results and how it needs to be continued and I believe this body or legislators is behind you all and wants to do our best for you so thank you so much. Thank you Mr. Chair.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin:

Thank You. Senator Sabina Perez.

Senator Sabina Flores Perez:

Thank you Mr. chairman. I would like to thank the Senator Terlaje for introducing those two bills. I just want to say to all of you you're not alone. I know the struggle that you face as an aunt and as an educator. And, I know that you really need the support, especially when they're at a younger age because like you said, when you catch it earlier there's interventions that can really help them, that can get them through their

lifetime. I also know that you also need support throughout the lifetime of the child, because they need to feel that sense of belonging and they need to feel the sense of purpose. I do support these bills because they help to address the stopgap measure, the funding that's needed right now.

But like the Speaker said, we need to look at long-term solutions and building capacity. I want to thank you for all your dedication that you've shown throughout the years, to support this community, which may be even be larger than what we have right now or what we know right now. So yes, thank you very much.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin:

Thank you Senator. Senator Telo.

Senator Telo Taitague:

Thank You Mr. Chair and thank you everyone for being here today and taking time out to testify. I just have a few questions for you. First Dr. Dueñas and Ms. Blas, I humbly ask if you can please send the testimony if you can right away. If you have it already, sent it to senatortelot@gmail.com. There's some things in there that I like to do some research on. I'm surprised we don't have the Director of DISID here today providing testimony. I wish he were here. So I hope he's listening, so he can also provide some input on this and definitely support.

So my question to Dr. Dueñas is, how many technicians do you have? Or how many counselors do you have at the center right now?

Vincent Dueñas, MD:

Currently we have one (1) Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA), who supervises all the programs. Under her, work four (4) registered technicians, who do the direct one-to-one therapy. Per Board guidelines, the Board Certified Behavior Analyst is only allowed to ethically supervise 15 cases. So in doing the numbers for Guam, we anticipate that we would need approximately ten (10) to fifteen (15) BCBA's and about seventy-five (75) technicians to accommodate the entire population.

Senator Telo Taitague:

So what do you have currently?

Vincent Dueñas, MD:

We have one (1) BCBA and four (4) technicians?

Senator Telo Taitague:

Okay, so four (4) techs and one (1) certified?

Vincent Dueñas, MD:

Correct. Yes and I just want to mention that we use the pilot program, the current six kids that we're treating, as a way to train some of our local people to become technicians and so that's our way of trying to build our staff as quick as possible.

Senator Telo Taitague:

And through this training for the techs, is it through GCC or do you do it at this Center?

Vincent Dueñas, MD:

Independently.

Senator Telo Taitague:

Yeah, okay. How many clients, how many clients do you have currently?

Vincent Dueñas, MD:

We have six.

Senator Telo Taitague:

Only six?

Vincent Dueñas, MD:

We have six (6) and I'm not sure how many we have exactly on the wait list.

Senator Telo Taitague:

Okay. I greatly appreciate it. I'm definitely looking into this. I have a nephew, as well, two nephews actually. Unfortunately, they have to live off-island to get the kind of treatment they need, one in Washington and one in Hawaii. But the one in Hawaii is going to come home and hopefully

that waiting list won't be that long but I have a funny feeling it is. So, I definitely know the struggles and I want to just to say to the parents, you know that, I know my nephew's are the most loving individuals. They have their times, you know certain moments but I've never in my life individuals that have a true heart than those with autism. So, I thank you so much.

Vincent Dueñas, MD:

I just want to mention that what inspired us to do this project was when we visited Hawaii to take Hunter for an evaluation and we had the opportunity to meet what dr. Amy Wish, who runs the center that we were going to enroll Hunter in. So, ABC group is one of the biggest autism groups in Honolulu and Dr. Wish, she started off exactly where we are now. She started off servicing two clients out of her home and now runs one of the biggest autism centers in in Hawaii. She has not only an Autism Center there but she has branched off into neighboring islands and has done online programs and even ventures as far off as Japan.

So in ten years she was able to do that and we see the same potential with Hunter Speaks. This is definitely not an easy task but again, we need to start somewhere and we do see that potential for Guam. There's our hope that not only do we service our islands population, but maybe even be able to take it a step further and service our neighboring islands and expand regionally. We can see that already with our medical clinics. Clinics that started ten years ago are now opening up multiple locations and expanding.

It's just going to take time and trust, but we really do think that in five to ten years from now, we're going to be able to look back and say, we were all a part of this and we are going to be able put Guam on the map. So, thank you.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin:

Thank you Senator. Dr. Dueñas is the autism center where is it located?

Vincent Dueñas, MD:

We were gracious enough to or we were lucky enough to have a space donated to us by Mr. Ho at Core Tech and so we use 1200 square foot space in Upper Tumon as Dos Amontes Plaza, where we do a lot of the intake. We provide not only center based therapy, but the beauty of ABA is that you can do this in home, you can do this in school and in the community. And so for some of the cases, we do provide therapy up at the center but a lot of times, we are in the home with families, teaching them strategies to work with their children.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin:

Okay doctor, but was the Center supposed to be located with DISID across JFK?

Vincent Dueñas, MD:

It was.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin:

Okay, I'm going to use the word, "is" going to happen okay. I want to be positive about that doctor. The reason why I bring that up is because I did meet with the GHURA folks and I asked them how we can get federal

grants for folks like yourself, nonprofit organizations. He said we can get grants, not for government operation, but for nonprofits. So being the oversight chair of housing and GHURA, I've asked him to look into that because at the DISID center right across JFK, there's a lot of nonprofit organizations that can be housed there. Can build the DISID, but if we can build Autism Center and everybody else by federal grants, then I would love to see that. I know that would help the autism group. I'm in support of the bill totally.

One of my colleagues asked me about the BBMR Fiscal Note. It says all the funds for 2019 has been accounted for. Yeah, that's what they say, but I know we can find ways to. If we need to de-appropriate, then we'll de-appropriate somebody. Autism is important. We take care of you folks and the children.

Vincent Dueñas, MD:

Thank you.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin:

Now, there shouldn't be a doubt about that. That should be an easy one and if any other agency wants to say, "no, don't take a hundred fifty thousand," I think Senator Terlaje is probably going to reach to me and says, "no, let's make it more" and I have no problem that. But you know, we'll work it. I'll work with the author of the bill and we do what we need to do. These are the children. You know, I have family too like Senator Telo that are also autistic. So, we'll just do what we need to do and we just hope that everybody will be patient and not take it too personal when we ask to de-appropriate from other agencies. But work with it, because there is only on Guam. It takes the community. So, we all need to hold hands and just

move forward from there. All right. Senator Terlaje, the author, you will do the closing Ma'am.

Senator Therese M. Terlaje:

Thank you very much. Thanks to all of you who've testified. I also want to recognize that there's also testimony that's been submitted in writing by Select Care. Would you like to testify verbally? No? All right.

So, there is written testimony by Select Care and we've also discussed the bill with the Acting Director of DISID and she sounded supportive. In fact, she was asking about the age of 21 because I guess with her experiences in the Department of Education and Special Education, she thought that (age) should be lifted, especially for boys up to 26 or men but that there was an issue with that. But, I realize this is a work in progress and that's what I appreciate about this bill. I have to admit that I had to learn a lot since I first became a senator.

I want to thank your organization, the Hunter Speaks Organization. But I also want to thank the Autism Community Together Organization, who has done such a great job of community outreach and showing us. And I really, really appreciate meeting the children with autism and seeing how the word spectrum is so appropriate and how I had to learn all of that, and so I'm still learning along with you. So just be patient with all of us. We're all learning. But, you're right that it has impacted every one of us, our families and our community and so we want to help each other and we want to support you.

I want to also acknowledge that DOE and through Guam early intervention, Cedars has done some training and the Department of Education. So they are, before this Center, they are our the ones who we are looking to and they have actually done some really good work, because

we've met their students and in these outreach events and I just think the more resources we can give to them too, the better. And, I think ideally we bring our successes and we share them across the board for everyone.

So, it is very concerning that these bills are not even a drop in the bucket. It's a really small thing compared to the need. so we're looking at a recognized need of at least two hundred and sixty (268) children. But, if we follow the statistics, then perhaps much more unidentified, up to eight hundred (800) is what you estimate. It's so very concerning.

Dr. Dueñas, if I could just ask you one more time to explain the potential of a pilot program to increase. You described who you have employed and maybe if you can just repeat that and how that might have the potential to grow.

Vincent Dueñas, MD:

Yes, so the beauty of the technician position is that the training doesn't take very long. Most training programs consist of a short online course, maybe two to three weeks and then following that, a short time in the center getting hands-on training and then taking a nationally recognized board exam. So the whole process can take anywhere from maybe two to six months and so it's not like we have to send people to school for four years. So, we're able to produce technicians in a pretty reasonable amount of time.

I think the biggest challenge we're finding is finding people who are the right fit for the program. We've had different cohorts of training programs but because it's such a specific type of therapy, you really have to have the passion for the field. It's just moving forward trying to network with GCC or trying to network with UOG to develop these programs and Cedars. I think is going to make the biggest impact long-term. So, I don't think it's going to be hard to build up to that capacity. One thing, one reason why

we asked for additional funding, is that it is something that will allow us to be able to recruit. Because since we started the center, we have been getting a lot of interest from people in the mainland. Tiffany and Jacqueline are prime examples and we, in July, are going to be recruiting a second Board Certified Behavior Analysts who can supervise 15 more cases. There are just more and more interests coming into the organization. There's actually another guy from Guam who's getting his doctorate in ABA who is expected to come back within a year or two.

So, we're getting the interest and I don't think we necessarily need to train a lot of people from the ground up. I think we're going to also be able to recruit the amount of people we need from off-island because they're out. It's just that they never had a place to come home to and so I think this would provide that opportunity.

Senator Therese M. Terlaje:

All right. I'm glad you also clarified that it is 15 cases per Board Certified Behavior Analyst. So, that's also one of the limiting factors. So, you've got one now and I think there are two on Guam. Is that correct?

Vincent Dueñas, MD:

Camille is supervisee. She is training to be a Board Certified Behavior Analysts. We have another, Crystal and then Jaclyn and Tiffany are also training to get their credentials eventually as analysts.

Senator Therese M. Terlaje:

All right and I know I've talked to you about working with GCC. For the technician side, if you need up to 75, I noticed on your staffing pattern that

a registered behavior technicians for direct therapy could make up about \$20 an hour and for indirect therapy, about \$10 an hour. Yes, I'm just putting that out there as a plug.

But I you know in all seriousness, we also you want to be cognizant of the concerns of the insurance industries and how right now, we are having a struggle to ensure small businesses or small businesses are very much struggling to get insurance that is affordable. So, part of Select Cares testimony is asking us to look at covering or making the bill expanding service coverage apply only to groups with more than 25 insured employees so that the small group market is protected from the larger premium impact and costs from this legislation, similarly to what other states have implemented to protect the small group market and include a definition for small groups to any employer with less than 25 employees.

So, they do point out and I think correctly, that we do not know exactly the impact from the existing bill. It was really only implemented recently and that they thought that further study should be done to see the impacts of this type of legislation on the insurance premiums for small businesses, or overall, but especially in small businesses. So I just wanted to put that on the record because I want you to know that part of our jobs as lawmakers, those are the tough things we have to look at and we can't ignore those things. So, we're trying to do our best in balancing what needs to be done for the community and those who are vulnerable and yet not to exclude whole groups of businesses from being able to afford coverage overall.

I want to thank you again for all your efforts, those who are doing the work all across the island and those who have helped us to learn along the way and for you, for having the vision and to really use this pilot program to be self-sustaining.

I wanted to, Mr. Chair, if I could just add one more plug, because it is Autism Awareness Month. I just wanted to announce a couple of things.

One is, tonight the Hunter Speaks Organization is having the premiere of Blue Island at the Guam Museum at 6:30 p.m. It is a \$50 fundraising event. I want to point out that you're also fundraising for your money. The money that we've put in does not cover it and insurance proceeds cover part but the fundraising proceeds have helped to bring this along at a faster pace. Also for the Autism Awareness Month schedule, there is also coming up a special nondenominational prayer service on Saturday, April 27 11:00 a.m. There is a fire truck pull, on April 26. The fire truck pull fundraiser is at Paseo on Saturday, April 27. There is a fee to register. That's how they're going to raise money and so that's where all different groups or businesses or even government organizations can join and help them raise some money. There will also be a wave on April 30th from 4 p.m. to 6 pm at the ITC intersection. So, thank you again for all your work. Thank you Mr. Chair.

Senator Joe S. San Agustin:

Thank you. There being that all who have signed up to testify, have testified, the committee will continue to receive testimony for the next few days. Please address your testimony the Committee's on General Government Operations, Appropriation and Housing and the Committee on Health, Tourism, Historic Preservation, Land and justice and to all at home, thank you for watching. It is now 10:25. Please enjoy your day and have a nice day. Thank you.

The public hearing was adjourned at 10:25 AM.

III. FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee on General Government, Appropriations and Housing hereby reports on **Bill No. 68-35 (COR), As Introduced-** introduced by **Therese M. Terlaje-** "An Act to Appropriate One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) from the General Fund to the Department of Administration for Continued Operation of the Guam Autism Center," with the recommendation to To Do Pass.

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

Bill No. 68-35 (COR/LS)

Introduced by:

Therese M. Terlaje 

AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$150,000) FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION FOR CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE GUAM AUTISM CENTER.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that a Guam Autism Center was authorized pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 33-227. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* appropriated One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000.00) for FY18 pursuant to Chapter V, Section (g)(12) of Public Law 34-42, to the Department of Administration and the Hunter Speaks non-profit organization, as an initial investment to set up the Guam Autism Center, prior to the establishment of the DISID Business Center and One Stop Community Resource and Wellness Center.

I Liheslaturan Guåhan further finds that in early November 2018, the Guam Autism Center has taken in its first group of kids and has begun billing health insurance providers under Hunter's Law (P.L. 34-06) as a means of long-term sustainability. Initial seed funding has been utilized to cover the cost of training technicians, recruitment and operational costs. However, it may take approximately two (2) years before the Guam Autism Center is completely self-

2019 MAR 20 AM 9:44 

1 funded and seed funding will run out by April 2019. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further
2 finds that the services provided by the Hunter Speaks non-profit organization for
3 the Guam Autism Center are vital to the quality of life of children living with
4 Autism Spectrum Disorder in our community. It is therefore the intent of *I*
5 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* to appropriate additional funding to ensure the continuation
6 of vital autism services provided by the Hunter Speaks Non-Profit Organization.

7 **Section 2. Appropriation.** The sum of One Hundred Fifty Thousand
8 Dollars (\$150,000) is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
9 Administration (DOA) for the Guam Autism Center, operated by the Hunter
10 Speaks Non-profit Organization, in fiscal year 2019. This appropriation *shall* be
11 used by the Government of Guam to provide payment for autism spectrum disorder
12 services, training, and operation of the Guam Autism Center and *shall not* be
13 transferred, used, or expended for any other purpose other than what is specified in
14 this Act.

15 **Section 3. Reporting Requirement.** The Hunter Speaks Non-Profit
16 Organization shall submit to the Speaker of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*, a status report
17 on the utilization of funds every 90 days until such funds are fully expended.

Senator Amanda L. Shelton,
Vice Chairperson

Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes,
Member

Vice Speaker Telenia Cruz Nelson,
Member

Senator Kelly Marsh (Taitano), Ph.D.,
Member

Senator Sabina Flores Perez
Member

Senator Clynton E. Ridgell
Member



COMMITTEE ON RULES
SENATOR RÉGINE BISCOE LEE, CHAIR
I MINA 'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
35TH GUAM LEGISLATURE

April 1, 2019

Senator Joe S. San Agustin,
Member

Senator Jose T. Terlaje,
Member

Senator Therese M. Terlaje,
Member

Senator James C. Moylan,
Member

Senator Mary Camacho Torres,
Member and
Chair, Subcommittee on Protocol

MEMO

To: **Rennae Meno**
Clerk of the Legislature

From: **Senator Régine Biscoe Lee**
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

Re: **Fiscal Note**

Buenas yan Håfa adai.

Attached, please find the fiscal note for the following bill:

Bill No. 68-35 (COR)

Please forward the same to Management Information Services (MIS) for posting on our website.

For any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Mary Maravilla, Committee on Rules Director at 472-2461.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.



**Bureau of Budget & Management Research
Fiscal Note of Bill No. 68-35 (COR)**

AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$150,000) FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION FOR CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE GUAM AUTISM CENTER.

Department/Agency Appropriation Information

| | |
|---|---|
| Dept./Agency Affected: Department of Administration | Dept./Agency Head: Edward Birn, Director |
| Department's General Fund (GF) appropriation(s) to date: | \$6,642,389 |
| Department's Other Fund (Specify) appropriation(s) to date: Indirect Cost Fund & Limited Gaming Fund | \$1,054,013 |
| Total Department/Agency Appropriation(s) to date: | \$7,696,402 |

Fund Source Information of Proposed Appropriation

| | General Fund: | (Specify Special Fund): | Total: |
|--|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| FY 2018 Unreserved Fund Balance | | \$0 | \$0 |
| FY 2019 Adopted Revenues | \$630,521,037 | \$0 | \$630,521,037 |
| FY 2019 Appro. (P.L. 34-116 thru _____) | (\$630,521,037) | \$0 | (\$630,521,037) |
| Sub-total: | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Less appropriation in Bill | (\$150,000) | \$0 | (\$150,000) |
| Total: | (\$150,000) | \$0 | (\$150,000) |

Estimated Fiscal Impact of Bill

| | One Full Fiscal Year | For Remainder of FY 2019 (if applicable) | FY 2020 | FY 2021 | FY 2022 | FY 2023 |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| General Fund ^{1/} | \$150,000 | \$150,000 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Special Fund | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Total | \$150,000 | \$150,000 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |

1. Does the bill contain "revenue generating" provisions? / / Yes / X / No
If Yes, see attachment
2. Is amount appropriated adequate to fund the intent of the appropriation? / X / N/A / / Yes / / No
If no, what is the additional amount required? \$ _____ / X / N/A
3. Does the Bill establish a new program/agency? / / Yes / X / No
If yes, will the program duplicate existing programs/agencies? / X / N/A / / Yes / / No
Is there a federal mandate to establish the program/agency? / / Yes / X / No
4. Will the enactment of this Bill require new physical facilities? / / Yes / X / No
5. Was Fiscal Note coordinated with the affected dept/agency? If no, indicate reason: / X / Yes / / No
/ / Requested agency comments not received by due date / / Other:

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Analyst: <u>Jason Baza</u> | Date: <u>3/27/19</u> | Director: <u>Lester L. Carlson, Jr.</u> | Date: <u>MAR 27 2019</u> |
| Jason Baza, BMA III | | Lester L. Carlson, Jr., Acting Director | |

Notes:
1/ The proposed legislation seeks to appropriate One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) from the General Fund to the Department of Administration (DOA) for the Guam Autism Center run by the non-profit organization Hunter Speaks. The Bureau notes that the same amount was appropriated to Hunter Speaks for the Guam Autism Center in FY 2018 through P.L. 34-42.

Currently, all adopted General Fund revenues are fully appropriated per P.L. 34-116 (FY 2019 Budget Act). The proposed legislation does not provide language to offset the proposed appropriation with precluding or subsequent language to de-appropriate funds allocated per P.L. 34-116 and, as a result, would cause a variance of \$150,000 between FY 2019 General Fund revenues and appropriations.

OFFICE OF FINANCE AND BUDGET
Committee on General Government Operations,
Appropriations and Housing
Tel: (671) 989-5445 / Fax: (671) 969-6737
Email: senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com



I Mina'trentai Singko Na Leheslaturan Guahan
THE 35TH GUAM LEGISLATURE
Ran Care Bldg, Suite 5, 2nd Floor,
721 . Marine Corps. Dr., Tamuning Guam 96913

February 20, 2019

MEMORANDUM

To: Senator Joe S. San Agustin
Chairman, Committee on General Government Operations, Appropriations and Housing

From: Stephen J. Guerrero
Director, Office of Finance and Budget

Re: Funding Availability Note: Bill No. 68-35 (COR)

Hafa Adai Senator San Agustin!

Pursuant to the Standing Rules of the 35th Guam Legislature, the Committee on Appropriations and/or the Office of Finance and (OFB) shall determine in writing if the funding source cited in Appropriation or Authorization for Appropriations bills are sufficient.

The Office has received Bill NO 68-35 (COR) AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$150,000) FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION FOR CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE GUAM AUTISM CENTER.

Thank you.

Stephen J. Guerrero



SENATOR JOE S. SAN AGUSTIN

Chairman, Committee on General Government Operations,
Appropriations and Housing

I Mina' trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guåhan - Thirty-Fifth Guam Legislature

COMMITTEE VOTE SHEET

Bill No. 68-35 (COR), As Introduced - "AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$150,000) FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION FOR CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE GUAM AUTISM CENTER."

| | SIGNATURE | TO DO PASS | TO NOT PASS | TO REPORT OUT ONLY | TO ABSTAIN | TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE |
|--|-------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| Senator Joe S. San Agustin Chairperson | | ✓ | | | | |
| Senator Clynt E. Ridgell Vice Chairperson | | | | | | |
| Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes Member | | ✓ | | | | |
| Senator William M. Castro Member | | | | | | |
| Senator Régine Biscoe Lee Member | | ✓ | | | | |
| Senator Kelly G. Marsh (Taitano), Ph.D. Member | 4/22/19 | | | ✓ | | |
| Senator James C. Moylan Member | | ✓ | | | | |
| Senator Louise B. Muña Member | | | | | | |
| Senator Jose T. Terlaje Member | | ✓ | | | | |
| Senator Therese M. Terlaje Member | | ✓ 4/22/19 | | | | |

Autism study finds high rates of unmet healthcare needs; suggests public policy solutions

An Autism Speaks analysis of national survey identifies barriers to care and provides guidance for new programs to address needs across the lifespan

January 14, 2019

A [new analysis](#) of the National Survey of Children's Health finds that nearly a fifth of children with autism (18.8 percent) have unmet healthcare needs. This contrasts to 9.6 percent of children with other disabilities and 2.6 percent of children without disabilities.

The analysis also identifies the circumstances most strongly associated with unmet healthcare needs among children with autism. And it provides guidance on how public programs can better address these disparities across the lifespan.



Image courtesy Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders

[The report](#), by Autism Speaks science and public policy experts, appears in the *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*.

It's based the 2016 [National Survey of Children's Health](#). This federally funded survey of more than 50,000 parents recently made headlines for its finding that autism rates may be significantly higher than official estimates by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

See "[National survey of parents identifies 1 in 40 children with autism.](#)"

Complex healthcare needs

According to the national survey, 93 percent of children with autism have one or more co-occurring health conditions, compared to 62 percent of children with other disabilities. This finding is backed by considerable research associating autism with high rates of many medical and mental health issues, including seizures (epilepsy), digestive disorders, disrupted sleep, anxiety and depression, among others.

See "[Autism and Health: A special report by Autism Speaks](#)"

Barriers to care

Yet these complex medical needs were not the sole or even the primary driver behind the disparities in access to needed services, according to the new analysis.

The circumstances strongly associated with unmet healthcare needs among children with autism were:

- * no or low-quality health insurance
- * no access to family-centered care (care that includes families as partners in their child's healthcare)
- * adverse childhood conditions (family separation, divorce, physical or emotional abuse and domestic violence in the home, etc.) and
- * parental challenges (financial hardship, difficulties caring for the child, unemployment and being a single parent, etc.).

Proposed policies and programs

"These findings make clear that the unmet healthcare needs faced by children with autism are substantially related to factors best addressed through policies and programs that strengthen the ability of families to care for their children," says study leader Arun Karpur, Autism Speaks director for data science and evaluation research.

"Programs supporting children with autism and their families need to integrate social supports across a broad range of needs including education, workforce development, healthcare and other welfare programs," Dr. Karpur adds. Currently, he says, these types of public programs operate separately, increasing a family's difficulty in accessing them.

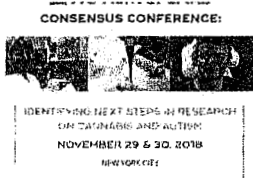
Have concerns or questions about autism?

Get personal guidance from Autism Speaks' trained [Autism Response Team](#) at 888-AUTISM2 (288-4762); en Español 888-772-9050; or familyservices@autismspeaks.org

You can also learn about the [signs of autism](#), [screening and diagnosis](#), [associated health conditions](#) and [autism treatments](#) and more at www.autismspeaks.org.

1k Shares

Additional Resources & Tools



NEWS

[Autism Speaks hosts first scientific conference on cannabis and autism](#)



SCIENCE NEWS

[Autism-related guidelines for healthcare providers](#)



NEWS

[Announcing Autism Speaks Science Digest \(the relaunch\)](#)



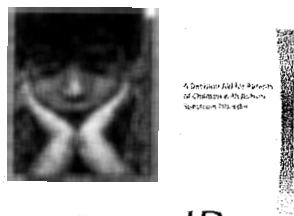
EVENT

[Engaging autism families as partners in research within a healthcare network](#)



EVENT

[Reducing disparities in services among children and families with autism](#)



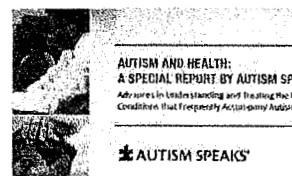
TOOL KIT

[ATN/AIR-P Medication Decision Aid](#)



TOOL KIT

[ATN/AIR-P Autism and Medication: Safe and Careful Use](#)



SCIENCE NEWS

[Autism and Health: A Special Report by Autism Speaks](#)

Need Personalized Support?

Our Autism Response Team (ART) is specially trained to connect people with autism, their families, and caretakers to information, tools, and resources.

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HunterSpeaks offers behavioral therapy for children with autism

Staff reports, Pacific Daily News USA TODAY NETWORK Published 4:37 p.m. ChT Dec. 15, 2018 | Updated 5:03 p.m. ChT Dec. 15, 2018

A local organization is doing their part in helping improve the level of care for children with autism on island.



(Photo: Courtesy of HunterSpeaks Organization Guam)

The HunterSpeaks Organization, a nonprofit that advocates for the improvement of the standard of care given to those with autism, is offering applied behavior analysis to residents on Guam. This is the first time this form of therapy was made available on island, according to a press release from the organization.

"HunterSpeaks Organization is offering applied behavior analysis (ABA) for the very first time on-island, a significant step to improving the standard of care for autism treatment on Guam," the group stated.

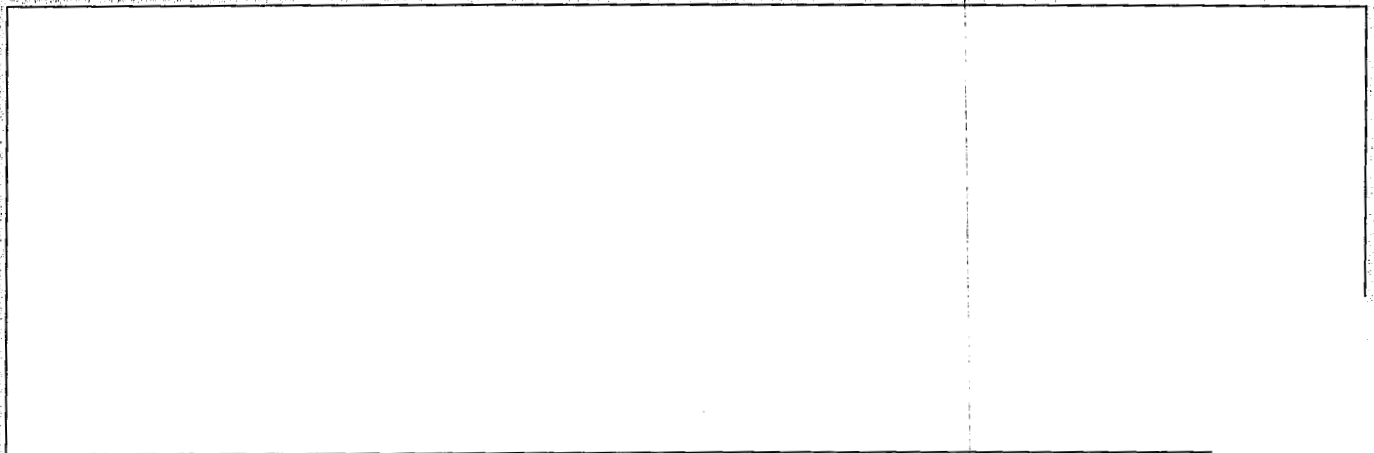
More: [Guam-based author publishes first novel, promotes autism awareness \(/story/life/2018/05/05/guam-based-author-publishes-first-novel-promotes-autism-awareness/575691002/\)](#)

More: [Guam recognizes Autism Awareness Month \(/videos/news/2018/04/02/guam-recognizes-autism-awareness-month/33472567/\)](#)

Previously, families had to relocate to avail for this treatment, according to the organization.

Since there is no cure for autism, "behavioral therapy is the gold standard right now for treating autism and other developmental disorders... this will be the first," says Tanya Duenas, mother of Hunter Duenas, the inspiration for HunterSpeaks Organization Guam.

ADVERTISEMENT



Toto resident Lola Brown, a board-certified behavior analyst, will provide clinical treatment for autism utilizing methods to reduce problematic behaviors commonly associated with the disorder.

There will be a focus on improving play skills, communication, self-care, academics, and social living. With early aggressive intervention, individuals on the spectrum can make drastic improvements, according to the organization.

Brown also plans to provide parent training, sibling play and training, social group training, social group outings, and advocacy for working with families and the schools.

Registered behavior technicians will perform daily therapy sessions under the supervision and guidance of Brown. One-on-one direct treatment can be home-based or provided at their center, according to HunterSpeaks.

Candidates sought

To address the current workforce shortage, the organization also is seeking high school graduates and college students who would like to become registered behavior technicians.

Candidates must be at least 18 years old and have a high school diploma. Training will be provided to qualified candidates, according to the press release.

Those seeking to apply must also have a love for children and compassion.

"They just really have to love kids and have a lot of compassion for individuals with special needs. The huge focus right now aside from treating children, is one-on-one training and educating the current behavior technicians so that they can eventually become behavioral analysts," said Brown.

For more information, people can contact Vince Duenas, CEO, at hunterspeaks671@gmail.com or at (671) 487-5493.

Read or Share this story: <https://www.guampdn.com/story/news/2018/12/15/hunterspeaks-offers-behavioral-therapy-children-autism/2321463002/>

https://www.postguam.com/news/local/nonprofit-presents-gold-standard-of-autism-care/article_5f21d9e8-ff5a-11e8-8c25-8735f86a9d22.html

Nonprofit presents 'gold standard' of autism care

TIHU LUJAN | THE GUAM DAILY POST

DEC 16, 2018

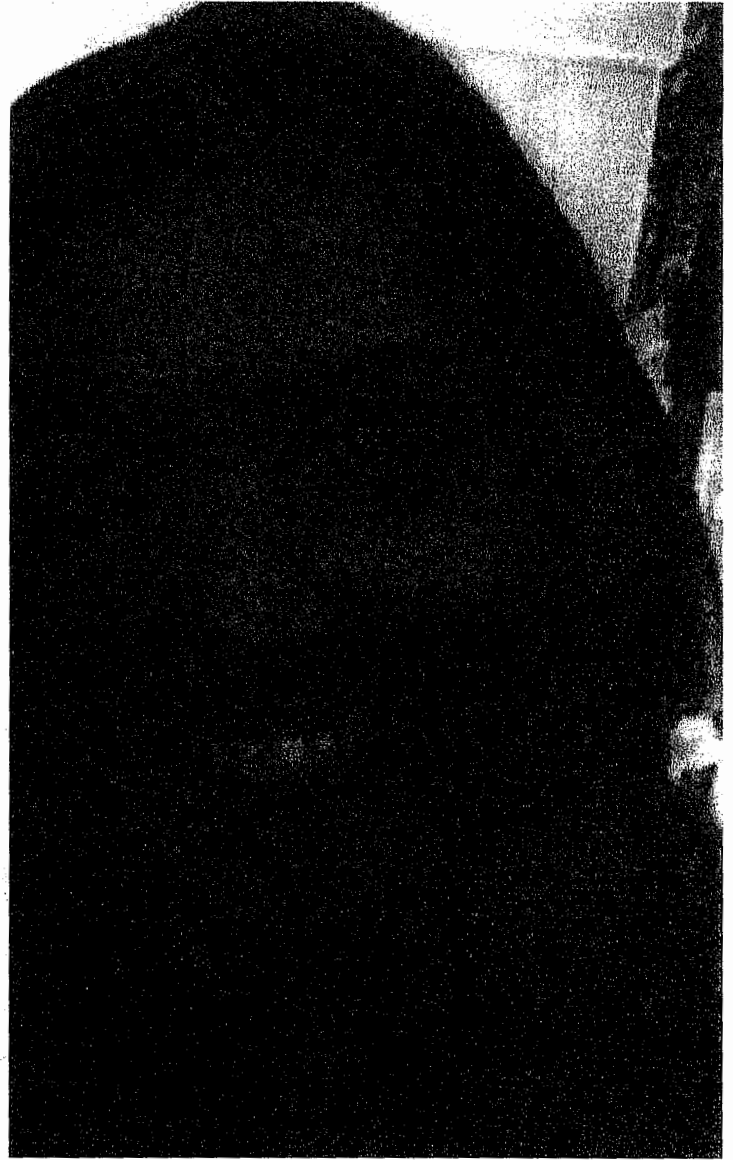


DUENAS: HunterSpeaks Organization co-founder Tanya Duenas and her son, Hunter Joseph Duenas, raise a Light It Up Blue flag during the 2018 Autism Awareness Month Proclamation Signing in April at the Ricardo J. Bordallo Governor's Complex in Adelup. Post file photo

The "gold standard" of treating autism is now available to Guam residents for the first time, the HunterSpeaks Organization announced last week.

Applied behavior analysis, or ABA, a clinical treatment for individuals with autism, is the latest option for Guam families hoping to receive treatment on island.

The treatment methods will reduce problematic behavior associated with autism spectrum disorder, the local nonprofit stated in a news release.



Lola Brown

SIGN UP FOR ABA

To sign up for applied behavior analysis treatment, get a referral from your primary care physician, then contact HunterSpeaks at hunterspeaks671@gmail.com or 487-5493. Therapy sessions can be conducted at home, the HunterSpeaks autism center in Upper Tumon or other venues.

APPLY

The HunterSpeaks Organization, a local nonprofit advocating for children with autism, is seeking college students and high school graduates interested in becoming registered behavior technicians. The job entails leading therapy sessions under professional supervision for children with autism. Applicants must be 18 or older with a high school diploma. To apply, contact HunterSpeaks at hunterspeaks671@gmail.com or 487-5493.

“Behavioral therapy is the gold standard right now for treating autism and other developmental disorders,” said Tanya Duenas, HunterSpeaks co-founder. She is the mother of the organization’s inspiration, Hunter Joseph Duenas, who was diagnosed with autism at 2 years old.

HunterSpeaks, which formed in 2016 to improve the standard of care for autism treatment on Guam, announced it recruited Toto resident Lola Brown to provide the professional service.

Brown is a board-certified applied behavior analyst with a bachelor’s degree in social science and psychology, and a master’s degree in curriculum and instruction, specializing in ABA.

Relocation not the only option

With 10 years of experience in the autism field, Brown will focus on improving academic, social and play skills, in addition to communication and self-care.

HunterSpeaks stated that with early aggressive intervention, “individuals on the spectrum can make drastic improvements.”

Until now, Guam families with children who have autism would need to move to Hawaii or the U.S. mainland for treatment, HunterSpeaks stated.

A team of registered behavior technicians is now able to provide daily therapy sessions under Brown’s supervision and guidance.

The one-on-one treatment sessions can be conducted at home, the HunterSpeaks autism center in Upper Tumon or other venues.

Brown plans to provide parent and sibling training, social group and outing training, and bridge communication between families and schools.

Help wanted

HunterSpeaks is seeking to train college students and high school graduates as registered behavior technicians. The job entails leading therapy sessions under professional supervision for children who have autism. Applicants must be 18 or older with a high school diploma.

“They just really have to love kids and have a lot of compassion for individuals with special needs,” Brown said.

Autism, or autism spectrum disorder, affects 1 in 59 children, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. There is no cure, but behavioral therapy provides effective treatment, HunterSpeaks stated.

“The huge focus right now, aside from treating children, is one-on-one training and educating the current behavior technicians, so that they can eventually become behavioral analysts,” Brown added.

"We need to grow the workforce to make meaningful change," Duenas added.

TIHU LUJAN

REPORTER

The Scoop coordinator, Spots on The Rock columnist and Life documenter. Email: tihu@postguam.com. Follow Tihu on Twitter and Instagram at [@tihualujan](https://www.instagram.com/tihualujan).

https://www.postguam.com/news/local/bringing-gold-standard-autism-care-to-guam/article_e033d8b2-38ac-11e8-8ceb-5777bcfb9de8.html

Bringing gold-standard autism care to Guam

JAMIE WARD | THE GUAM DAILY POST

APR 12, 2018



DUENAS: HunterSpeaks Organization co-founder Tanya Duenas and her son, Hunter Joseph Duenas, raise a Light It Up Blue flag during the 2018 Autism Awareness Month Proclamation Signing in April at the Ricardo J. Bordallo Governor's Complex in Adelup. Post file photo

Editor's note: This is the fifth in a series of stories about living with autism on Guam.

Vince Duenas, an internal medicine physician who works at both island hospitals as well as a clinic, returned to Guam in 2013 after completing his residency, coming home with his wife, Tanya, and their young son, Hunter. Tanya had suspicions then that Hunter might have autism spectrum disorder, and those were confirmed upon their return when Hunter was 2 and received his diagnosis.

"We have to give them the chance, and the sooner we intervene, the better the outcomes."

– Vince Duenas, a physician and advocate for kids with autism spectrum disorder

Like most other families of kids on island who are living with autism, the couple used Guam Early Intervention Services (GEIS) and the Guam Department of Education to begin treatment for Hunter. In doing that, as Duenas put it, they noticed the island's services were fairly "nonexistent."

While appreciating the work the advocacy and support groups Parents Empowering Parents and Autism Community Together (ACT) were doing, Duenas, being a doctor, realized he wanted something that focused on realizing autism is a medical condition and diagnosis, which required a very specific type of therapy not even available on island – applied behavioral analysis (ABA). He said it is the gold standard of care in the United States for those with ASD.

The Center for Autism and Related Disorders agrees, stating treatment approaches grounded in ABA are now considered to be at the forefront of therapeutic and educational interventions for children with autism.

HunterSpeaks

Then in 2016 "Dr. Vince," as he is known by many, and Tanya formed the nonprofit HunterSpeaks with the aim of providing medically necessary autism treatment to affected children on Guam.

"We wanted to form an organization that approached autism from a medical standpoint," Duenas said. "So what we have been doing is trying to build Guam's autism workforce, and all our fundraising efforts have been directed at trying to train professionals and paraprofessionals in ABA.

"With this therapy, and if we intervene early, it's our hope that our kids will be more functional as they enter adulthood. It's been proven all kids benefit from this therapy, and if we intervene early when they are 1 1/2, studies show they can catch up to their peers by age 5."

Duenas said currently there are two people on Guam in programs to become board-certified behavioral analysts, with 11 enrolled in programs to become registered behavioral technicians, who would go out and administer the treatment with the board-certified behavioral analysts writing the plans, making the changes and managing the registered behavioral technicians. With board-certified behavioral analysts in high demand nationwide, he admitted how hard it is to bring professionals to the island, hence the reason to get training for people with roots here.

Professional in training

ACT Vice President and GDOE kindergarten teacher Kristal Flores, whose 5-year-old son Jacob has autism spectrum disorder, is one of those professionals in training. She received a scholarship from HunterSpeaks and currently is taking an online program to receive her M.A. in special education with a special concentration on behavioral analysis and autism from Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. After she and the other candidate finish, they will be the two board-certified behavioral analysts on island who will be responsible for assisting the 11 registered behavioral technicians with carrying out the therapy. The first

behavioral analyst should be board certified at the end of this year with 11 registered behavioral technicians finishing their program in June. Flores will finish her master's program in May 2019.

"We're doing all the legwork to get everyone their certifications and all the licensing things so that as soon as one of us can supervise, we have the people," Flores said. "Tanya and Vince are trying to build the capacity within the local community. We could easily bring people in, but what happens when the contract is up? We're trying to constantly recruit."

After establishing local therapists, Duenas said, long-term goals include getting ABA included in individualized education programs, or IEPs, and in use with GEIS.

Guam would need at least 100 registered behavioral technicians on island to get all the kids with autism spectrum disorder the necessary treatment hours they deserve, he said, but added interested candidates needed only a high school diploma to complete the three-month training.

"Autism therapy is actually really easy for people to learn," he said. "Families, moms and dads can learn this therapy because a lot of the treatment is done in the home."

In short, the therapy promotes good behaviors in kids while trying to limit the bad, and is aimed at influencing their already different learning process, he said.

Hunter's Law

HunterSpeaks in 2016 did something else beneficial for the autism community on Guam. They helped pass Hunter's Law, mimicking similar health care reform efforts in California and Arizona, that mandates all commercial health insurance carriers on Guam to pay for all autism-related medical services and diagnostics. The law stipulates up to \$50,000 per child per year for ages 1 to 9, and \$25,000 per year for ages 10 to 21. So once ABA comes to Guam, the services will be covered. Coupled with the Guam Autism Center, which the group is also in the process of developing, HunterSpeaks will also offer a dedicated work space where kids with autism can go to receive needed services.

"The big push for this is we've seen the state of our island's kids compared to the mainland, where the kids are receiving this recommended (ABA) therapy and it's night and day," Duenas said. "Most of the kids we've met on Guam are severely debilitated, and lots of adults who went with autism untreated are now completely dependent on their parents and the system, and we're trying to change that."

He said he just wants to see the kids here enter adulthood more independent and to be able to hold a job, and that those desires are possible.

"We have to give them the chance, and the sooner we intervene, the better the outcomes," he said. "We want to improve the standard of care, for sure."

COMING UP

In the sixth and final part of this series: Turning autism awareness into autism acceptance.

JAMIE WARD

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HunterSpeaks Organization scheduled to create a fully functioning autism center for Guam



HunterSpeaks Organization with Governor Calvo and The First Lady at the Autism Flag Ceremony and Proclamation Signing at Adelup on March 31, 2017. Photo courtesy of Tanya Duenas.

POSTED BY: SHANNON ADA DECEMBER 5, 2017

Hunter Duenas is six years old. This young boy is the inspiration behind what will be a multi-functioning center that services autistic individuals for the island of Guam.



Hunter Duenas

Vincent and Tanya Duenas, a doctor and nurse, respectively, cofounders of the nonprofit HunterSpeaks, and also Hunter's parents, beamed as they spoke of him.

"He can read at a second grade level, he can spell like anything," Tanya said.

Vincent chimed, "He has a photographic memory. He's super bright."

Tanya discovered that he fell on the autism spectrum after months of searching for answers. She noticed that he was different around 15 months and kept pushing to see specialists to diagnose him.

"When you hear that diagnosis, I don't know, so many emotions go through you...as a mother, you're like okay, now that we have this diagnosis, how do we get him help?" said Tanya.

That's when the couple realized that services on Guam for autistic children are lacking. According to the Duenasas, the recommended amount of behavioral treatment for autism is 25 to 40 hours a week; such treatment is nonexistent on Guam.

"Instead of fighting the system, we needed to provide a solution. That's how we came up with this nonprofit," Vincent said.

"We just saw a big gap that needed to be filled. We believe that Hunter was given to us for this specific reason," said Tanya.

To start, they worked with a task force organized by Governor Calvo and a team to help steer them in a certain direction. They also met and partnered with an attorney, who helped them pro bono.

Their non-profit, HunterSpeaks, began in 2016.



The Autism Community Together presents HunterSpeaks Organization with a certificate of appreciation for their participation in the Autism Fair held at the Agana Shopping Center on April 7, 2017. Photo courtesy of Tanya Duenas

“We’ve been established a little over a year now.” Vincent said. “We have a whole board that helps out and a bunch of volunteers.”

The mission of the organization is to “improve the standard of care for autism treatment on Guam, so that children affected by the disorder may receive the appropriate intervention they need and rightfully deserve.”

Their overall vision is to “establish a comprehensive autism center that provides intensive behavioral intervention as well as support services.”

Two bills have been passed in their favor to secure an area for the center and mandate the provision of health care insurance coverage for autism spectrum disorders by insurers.

The Duenasas have fundraised for scholarships for three local teachers to become Board Certified Behavioral Analysts to teach and work at the center.

Ten individuals will start training in a 12-week program to become Registered Behavioral Technicians in January.

Part of the training requires clinical hours, which they can get through a temporary center that will open in January to service 15-20 autistic kids.

“When the autism center is done in a year or two, we’ll just have to transition and expand,” Tanya said.

“It’s a very complicated project. It’d be nice if this field already existed here and we could recruit people to the center, but we’re starting something from the ground up and so it’s been a challenge,” said Vincent.

When they have a fully functioning center, the Duenasas plan to provide training for parents and caregivers of autistic children to be able to help their kids at home and as the center grows, they would like to branch out to service kids with other disabilities that might benefit from the treatment and also provide job placement opportunities for adults with autism.

“We’re starting off small. But eventually, we’ll be able to handle the entire capacity of Guam. Guam has an estimated population of about 260 kids with Autism ages 3-21. The company that we work with in California estimates that we’re going to need at least 100 RBTs to service Guam,” Vincent said.

Fundraisers and generous stakeholders are their sources of income for the scholarship program.

Last April, they hosted a Blue Run 5K, which had over 1500 participants. All the money raised went towards the scholarships for trainees.

Now, they’re planning a Blue Gala for the stakeholders in April of next year.

“We have a lot of support from the community. It’s going to take time, but we want to do it right and we want to get it done the right way,” said Vincent.

Vincent and Tanya are both UOG alumni, receiving a Bachelor’s in Biology and Nursing in 2004 and 2007, respectively.

Facebook Comments

Hunter Speaks gets boost from GFD

APR 30, 2017



HELPING THE COMMUNITY: Guam fireman Lt. Richard Rosete collects a donation at a boot drive at the ITC intersection on Friday. Guam firefighters were able to collect nearly \$5,000 for Hunter Speaks Organization Guam, a nonprofit organization dedicated to autism awareness and advocacy. Norman M. Taruc/The Guam Daily Post