


MINA'TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2010 (Second) Regular Session

Resolution No. 32530 (COE)

Introduced by:

FRANK B. AGUON, JR. 

RELATIVE TO COMMENDING AND
ACKNOWLEDGING THOSE AFFECTED BY
AUTISM AND THEIR FAMILIES FOR THEIR
SACRIFICE AND DEDICATION TO THEIR
CHILDREN, AS WELL AS AUTISM COMMUNITY
TOGETHER (ACT) AND AUTISM SOCIETY OF
GUAM FOR THEIR EFFORTS TO PROMOTE
AUTISM AWARENESS AS WE OBSERVE THE
MONTH OF APRIL 2010 AS "AUTISM AWARENESS
MONTH".

2010 APR 13 AM 10:20


1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY I MINA'TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN**
2 **GUÅHAN:**
3 **WHEREAS**, autism is a complex developmental disability that typically
4 appears during the first three years of life and affects a person's ability to
5 communicate and interact with others; and
6
7 **WHEREAS**, autism is defined by a certain set of behaviors and is a
8 "spectrum disorder" that affects individuals differently and to varying
9 degrees; and

1 **WHEREAS**, autism is four times more prevalent in boys than girls and
2 knows no racial, ethnic, or social boundaries; and

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

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7 **WHEREAS**, in December 2009 , the Centers for Disease Control and
8 Prevention issued their autism prevalence report and concluded that the
9 prevalence of autism had risen to 1 in every 110 births in the United States
10 and almost 1 in 70 boys; and

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12 **WHEREAS**, 13 million American families are now living with the effects
13 of autism spectrum disorder and Autism Society currently estimates that
14 the lifetime cost of caring for a child with autism ranges from \$3.5 million
15 to \$5 million and that the United States is facing almost \$90 billion annually
16 in costs for autism ; and

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18 **WHEREAS**, accurate, early diagnosis before three years of age, appropriate
19 education and intervention are vital to the future growth and development
20 of individuals with autism; and

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

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

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32 **WHEREAS**, in order to highlight the growing need for concern and
33 awareness about autism, the Autism Society has been celebrating National
34 Autism Awareness Month since 1970s. The United States recognizes April

1 as a special opportunity for everyone to educate the public about autism
2 and issues within the autism community; and

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4 **WHEREAS**, in March 29, 2010, Acting Guam Governor Mike W. Cruz
5 proclaimed April 2010 as *Autism Awareness Month* and urged every citizen
6 of Guam to participate in activities that educate and promote awareness of
7 autism spectrum disorders that affect member of our community and their
8 families; and

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10 **WHEREAS**, the Autism Community Together (ACT) , formed in January
11 2004, is spearheading an awareness effort in order to educate parents,
12 professionals and the general public about autism and its effects; and

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14 **WHEREAS**, various activities are being coordinated throughout the month
15 of April 2010 to commemorate this auspicious event, including a family
16 day of bowling at Whimsy in Tamuning, display and fair at Agana
17 Shopping Center, wave at Skinner Plaza and family potluck at Cliff Hotel ;
18 and now , therefore be it

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20 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina' Trenta Na Liheslaturan Guahan* , does hereby, on
21 behalf of the people of Guam, commend and acknowledge those affected
22 by autism and their families for their sacrifice and dedication to their
23 children , as well as Autism Community Together (ACT) and Autism
24 Society of Guam for their efforts to promote the month of April 2010 as
25 "Autism Awareness Month" ; and be it further

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2 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Secretary of the Legislature
3 attest to, the adoption hereof and that copies of the same be thereafter
4 transmitted to Ms. Evelyn Claros, President, Autism Community Together;
5 to Mr. Travis Coffman, Vice-President, Autism Community Together and
6 to Ms. Rindraty Celes-Limtiaco, Secretary and Co-founder, Autism
7 Community Together; to Ms. Jelly Flores, President, Autism Society of
8 Guam; to the Honorable Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Member of Congress, US
9 House of Representatives; and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I*
10 *Maga'lahen Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY I MINA TRENTA NA
LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN ON THIS _____ DAY OF APRIL 2010.**

JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed. D
Speaker

TINA MUNA-BARNES
Speaker of the Legislature