


**I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN
RESOLUTIONS**

Resolution No.	Sponsor	Title	Date Intro	Date of Presentation	Date Adopted	Date Referred	Referred to	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE AUTHORS REPORT FILED	NOTES
164-38 (COR)	Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao	Relative to recognizing Autism Community Together (ACT) for its efforts to promote autism awareness and provide support to families on the observance of "Autism Awareness Month" during the month of April 2026, with this year's theme: "Different is our Superpower!"; and commending the members of ACT, and the families and caregivers of all persons with autism spectrum disorders for their unconditional love and dedication to bettering the lives of their children, grandchildren, family members, and friends.	3/30/26 3:58 p.m.	4/7/26 5:30 p.m.						

I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN
2026 (SECOND) Regular Session

Resolution No. 164-38 (COR)

Introduced by:

Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao 

Relative to recognizing Autism Community Together (ACT) for its efforts to promote autism awareness and provide support to families on the observance of “Autism Awareness Month” during the month of April 2026, with this year’s theme: “*Different is our Superpower!*”; and commending the members of ACT, and the families and caregivers of all persons with autism spectrum disorders for their unconditional love and dedication to bettering the lives of their children, grandchildren, family members, and friends.

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

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

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

10 **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
11 Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network (ADDM) found that one

1 in 36 children were identified with ASD based on tracking across multiple areas of the
2 United States. This same data revealed some characteristics of children with ASD have
3 remained the same, and boys were almost 4 times more likely to be identified with ASD
4 than girls. Today, one in 25 boys and one in 100 girls, or one in 36 children, will be
5 diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders; and more children are diagnosed with ASD
6 than childhood cancer, juvenile diabetes, and pediatric aids combined; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the CDC reports the likelihood of a school-aged child receiving a
8 diagnosis of Autism, or a related developmental disorder, rose more than 70% since
9 2012. The report also stated, roughly one in 36 children in the nation are diagnosed
10 with autism today, a rise from one in 1,000 in 1980; and

11 **WHEREAS**, on average, autism costs an estimated \$60,000 a year through
12 childhood, with the bulk of the costs in special services and lost wages related to
13 increased demands on one or both parents. Costs increase with the occurrence of
14 intellectual disability. The cost of caring for Americans with autism had reached \$268
15 billion in 2015 and would rise to \$461 billion by 2025 in the absence of more-effective
16 interventions and support across the life span; and

17 **WHEREAS**, caring for a child with ASD can place a heavy economic burden on
18 families and communities. The ADDM estimates that it costs at least \$17,000 more per
19 year to care for a child with ASD, as compared to a child without ASD. Costs include
20 health care, education, AD-related therapy, family-coordinated services, and caregiver
21 time. Taken together, it is estimated that the total societal costs of caring for children
22 with ASD was more than \$11.5 Billion Dollars in 2011; and

23 **WHEREAS**, the latest report from the CDC finds that 1.47% of 8-year-old
24 children have autism. Extrapolating this rate to all people with autism puts costs at
25 roughly \$358 Billion in 2015 and \$616 Billion in 2025. Assuming autism rates will

1 continue to climb, as they have over the past few years, lifts the 2025 estimate to more
2 than \$1 Trillion; and

3 **WHEREAS**, a quarter century ago, a nationwide effort was launched to promote
4 autism awareness, inclusion, and self-determination for all, and ensure that each person
5 with ASD is provided with the opportunity to achieve the highest possible quality of
6 life; and this year, the Autism Society wants to go beyond simply promoting autism
7 awareness by encouraging friends and collaborators to become partners in the
8 movement towards acceptance and appreciation; and

9 **WHEREAS**, parents and family members, support groups, researchers, and
10 professionals have dedicated years of service in their ongoing efforts to advocate for
11 the rights, respect, dignity, humane treatment, and appropriate education of all persons
12 with autism; and, in order to highlight the growing need for concern and awareness
13 about autism, the Autism Community Together, or ACT, of Guam is celebrating
14 “Autism Awareness Month” during the month of **April 2026**, and this year’s theme is:
15 **“Different is our Superpower!”**; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the Autism Community Together, which was formed in January
17 2004, has continued to spearhead an awareness effort to educate parents, professionals,
18 and the general public about autism and its effects; and, **a Mass of Blessing for Autism,**
19 **an Autism Awareness Fair; a Run for Autism, and other events** are being
20 coordinated throughout the month of April 2026 to further these goals; now, therefore,
21 be it

22 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee of Rules of *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na*
23 *Lihe slaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, recognize the
24 Autism Community Together (ACT) for its efforts to promote autism awareness and
25 provide support to families on the observance of “Autism Awareness Month” during
26 the month of April 2026, with this year’s theme: **“Different is our Superpower!”**; and

1 autism spectrum disorders for their unconditional love and dedication to bettering the
2 lives of their children, grandchildren, family members, and friends.; and be it further

3 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules
4 certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of
5 the same be thereafter transmitted to Ms. Josephine M.P. Blas, ACT President, on behalf
6 of the individuals with autism spectrum disorders, their families and supporters of the
7 Autism Community Together; and the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I*
8 *Maga'hagan Guahan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF
I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE ____ DAY
OF APRIL 2026.**

FRANK F. BLAS, JR.
Speaker

V. ANTHONY ADA
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

SABRINA SALAS MATANANE
Legislative Secretary