

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-5301**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - MARCH 8, 2024**

**STATEMENT FROM DELEGATE JAMES MOYLAN**  
**“CLARIFYING SSI BENEFITS AS ASSOCIATED WITH CIFA”**

(Washington, D.C.). Since the release of our statement on the passage of the Compact of Free Association (COFA) renewals, which were included and passed on Wednesday as part of the House minibuss appropriations bill, I wanted to clarify what the Compact Impact Fairness Act (CIFA) entails. CIFA is the program which was agreed to by COFA Host Communities in 2022 as an offset to annual reimbursements to assist jurisdictions with their respective state/territorial funding and resources which would be depleted due to legal migration.

There are some that are still confused between what the COFA and the CIFA entails. COFA represents the agreement between the federal government and the FSA nations. CIFA is the benefit program being offered to COFA migrants. There hasn't been a true analysis on the amount it would represent for host communities, and federal entities are still ironing out the details. I hope to secure a briefing soon, so I can share with our local government, and hopefully in time for budget season.

CIFA would basically provide COFA migrants with access to those federal benefits that are available in the U.S. jurisdiction which they intend to migrate to. The primary confusion is with Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits, and if any COFA migrant who relocates to Guam would qualify for it. The answer to that question is “no”, since SSI benefits are not currently available for U.S. citizens residing in Guam.

The House minibuss appropriations measure must still pass in the U.S. Senate to eventually determine the true impact of CIFA and what it brings to our financial coffers. Likewise, there will be an eventual inequity as COFA migrants who migrate to any of the U.S. States would qualify for SSI benefits, while U.S. Citizens (and COFA migrants) residing in Guam will not. Our perspective is that that this indeed could be the very caveat which eventually closes the gap and provides the SSI equity for our community. I look forward to tackling that challenge.

**END OF STATEMENT**