

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Rett Syndrome (RS) is a rare but serious neurodevelopment disorder, which begins to show its affects in infancy or early childhood, is seen almost exclusively in females, and is found in all racial and ethnic groups throughout the world; and

WHEREAS: Rett Syndrome is caused by a mutation in the MECP2 gene on the X chromosome and is considered a genetic disorder of developmental arrest or failure of brain maturation; and

WHEREAS: There are presently 36 women and girls in Arkansas on record with the International Rett Syndrome Foundation as having been diagnosed with the disorder; and

WHEREAS: A child with Rett Syndrome initially demonstrates many of the same symptoms as a child with autism. However, children with Rett Syndrome also experience a loss of normal hand function, a deceleration of head growth, breathing and sleeping irregularities, and a loss of expressive communication; and

WHEREAS: Many health professionals may not be familiar with Rett Syndrome and may commonly misdiagnose it as autism, cerebral palsy, or non-specific developmental delay; and

WHEREAS: With an accurate and early diagnosis of Rett Syndrome, the impact can be lessened by therapies designed to improve communication skills and motor abilities; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas is joining with the International Rett Syndrome Foundation in designating October as National Rett Syndrome Awareness Month in order to increase awareness about the signs and symptoms of Rett Syndrome and to spotlight the need for continued research;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MIKE BEEBE, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim October 2009, as

**NATIONAL RETT SYNDROME
AWARENESS MONTH IN ARKANSAS**

across the State, and I encourage my fellow citizens learn more about this condition and to support those affected by this disorder.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 31st day of August, in the year of our Lord 2009.




MIKE BEEBE, GOVERNOR


CHARLIE DANIELS, SECRETARY OF STATE