

STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

- WHEREAS, Rett syndrome is a debilitating neurological disorder, caused by mutations in the gene MECP2, located on the X chromosome, that is diagnosed almost exclusively in females; and
- WHEREAS, Rett syndrome, which affects approximately 1 in every 10,000 to 23,000 female births, was originally described by Dr. Andreas Rett of Austria in 1966; and
- WHEREAS, infants with Rett syndrome often avoid detection until 6–18 months due to a relatively normal appearance and some developmental progress, but then this brief period of developmental progress is followed by stagnation and regression of previously acquired skills; and
- WHEREAS, Rett syndrome causes problems in brain function that are responsible for cognitive, sensory, emotional, motor and autonomic function. These can include learning, speech, sensory sensations, mood, movement, breathing, cardiac function, and even chewing, swallowing, and digestion; and
- WHEREAS, currently no cure for exists for Rett syndrome, but many symptoms of the disorder can be managed with medications and occupational, speech, and physical therapy; and
- WHEREAS, Rett syndrome remains little known in the general public, and even within the medical community; and
- WHEREAS, Rett syndrome presents many challenges, but with support, therapy and assistance, those with the syndrome can benefit from school and community activities well into middle age and beyond; and
- WHEREAS, the International Rett Syndrome Foundation (IRSF) is non-profit corporation dedicated to funding research for treatments and a cure for Rett syndrome while enhancing the overall quality of life for those living with Rett syndrome by providing information, programs, and services; and
- WHEREAS, October has been designated by the IRSF as Rett Syndrome Awareness Month. Throughout the month, the organization and its state and local affiliates will hold events designed to raise public awareness of Rett syndrome and provide support for individuals and families coping with the daily challenges of living with the disorder:

THEREFORE, I, Pat Quinn, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim October 2009 as **RETT SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH** in Illinois, to raise awareness of this disorder, to recognize the families affected by Rett syndrome, and in support of the important work of the International Rett Syndrome Foundation.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.



Rose White
SECRETARY OF STATE

Done at the Capitol, in the City of Springfield,
this ELEVENTH *day of* SEPTEMBER *, in*
the Year of Our Lord two thousand and
NINE *, and of the State of Illinois*
the one hundred and NINETY-FIRST

Pat Quinn
GOVERNOR