

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



A Proclamation

WHEREAS, Rett syndrome, often misdiagnosed as autism, cerebral palsy, or non-specific developmental delay, is a unique developmental disorder that is first recognized in infancy and seen almost always in girls; and

WHEREAS, Rett syndrome strikes all racial and ethnic groups, and occurs worldwide in 1 of every 10,000 to 23,000 female births; 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, some of the first symptoms of Rett syndrome include problems, walking or crawling, diminished eye contact, and eventually interference with body movement; and

WHEREAS, there is no known cure for Rett Syndrome, but symptoms can be treated with medication, along with occupational therapy, physiotherapy, and hydrotherapy to prolong their mobility; and

WHEREAS, there is still much to learn about Rett syndrome, but there have been significant advances in diagnosis and in promising research.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Haley Barbour, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim October 2009, as

RETT SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH

in the State of Mississippi.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, on the 15th day of September in the year of our Lord, two thousand and nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-fourth.