

Proclamation

by Governor Joe Manchin III

Whereas, Rett syndrome is a devastating neurodevelopmental disorder caused by a sporadic genetic mutation of the MECP2 gene on the X chromosome mainly affecting females; and,

Whereas, every 5 hours a girl is born with Rett syndrome, however symptoms do not usually appear until 6 to 18 months later; and,

Whereas, the baby is generally born healthy, but begins to show signs of regression or stagnation of milestones that would commonly be reached. Individuals lose their ability to speak, ability to walk, loss of hand control, suffer from seizures and scoliosis; and,

Whereas, a lifetime of occupational, speech, developmental and physical therapy are needed to maintain their existing skills, those stricken with Rett syndrome will never be capable of living independently; and,

Whereas, currently there is no cure for Rett syndrome, however, scientists around the world are working hard to develop additional treatments that will hopefully lead to a cure,

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Joe Manchin III, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *October 2009* as:

Rett Syndrome Awareness Month

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to gain a greater understanding of this disease and to support education programs and the funding of research programs to find a cure.

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

Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Eighteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Nine, and in the One Hundred Forty-seventh year of the State.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Joe Manchin III".

Joe Manchin III
Governor

By the Governor:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Natalie E. Tennant".

Natalie E. Tennant
Secretary of State