



Proclamation

By the Governor of Alabama

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, 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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Riley, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim October 2009, as

Rett Syndrome Awareness Month

in the State of Alabama.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on the 25th day of September 2009.

Governor Bob Riley