

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

### A PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, Rett Syndrome is a devastating neurodevelopmental disorder caused by a sporadic, genetic mutation of the MECP2 gene on the X chromosome and mainly affects females. This MECP2 gene makes a protein, also called MecP2, believed to play a pivotal role in silencing, turning off or regulating the activity of other genes. This mutation (change in the gene) causes the turn-off regulatory mechanism to fail, allowing the other genes to function abnormally. At present there is no cure; and

**WHEREAS**, every 2 hours a girl is born with Rett Syndrome, but its symptoms usually do not appear until 6 to 18 months later. This disorder does not just affect those living in the United States, it affects families world - wide. It does not discriminate as to race, color or creed, and it has no boundaries; and

**WHEREAS**, girls are generally born healthy then they begin to show signs of regression, or stagnation of milestones that would otherwise be routinely accomplished. They lose their ability to speak (hence the name "Silent Angels"), walk, loss of hand control (hand washing) and seizures and scoliosis; which are some of the hallmarks of Rett Syndrome; and

**WHEREAS**, apraxia is one of the most severe handicaps, where there is the inability to carry out learned purposeful movement because of the mutated (damaged) gene; and

**WHEREAS**, a lifetime of occupational, speech, developmental and physical therapies are needed to maintain their existing skills or perhaps to help in this effort, although these girls will never be capable of independent living. Loving parents are "caregivers" for the rest of these children's lives, lives which may be cut short because of this devastating disorder; and

**WHEREAS**, dedicated Scientists and Researchers from around the United States as well as around the world are working hard to find treatments now in advance to finding a cure, this, coming on the heels of the discovery in 2007 of the reversal of Rett symptoms in mice. We are on the brink of finding suitable treatments to help with certain symptoms of this disorder; and

**WHEREAS**, we must continue our efforts of bringing awareness to the medical community, therapists, teachers, caregivers, and the general public as well. We must have funding available for researchers who are dedicated in finding a cure for Rett Syndrome. We must CARE today so that we can CURE tomorrow; and

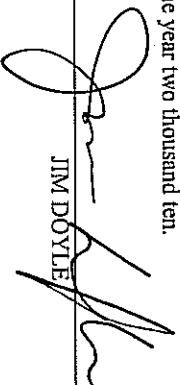
**WHEREAS**, for the first time, the door is opening to identify drugs and other therapeutic approaches targeting Rett Syndrome in a clinical setting. Our shared mission needs your support now more than ever to conquer Rett Syndrome. Together, progress will continue until there is a world with no Rett;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jim Doyle, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim October, 2010 as**


### RETT SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH

in Wisconsin and I commend your observance to all citizens.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this twentieth day of July in the year two thousand ten.

  
JIM DOYLE

By the Governor

  
DOUGLAS LA FOLLE  
Secretary of State