

CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia there is hereby officially recognized:

RETT SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, Rett syndrome is a neurodevelopmental disorder that affects girls almost exclusively; and

WHEREAS, Rett syndrome is caused by a mutation on the MCDP2 gene on the X chromosome; and

WHEREAS, Rett syndrome is estimated to affect 1 in every 23,000 live female births in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Rett syndrome is characterized by normal early growth and development followed by a slowing of development, loss of purposeful use of the hands, distinctive hand movements, slowed brain and head growth, problems with walking, seizures, and intellectual disability; and

WHEREAS, early diagnosis is important for improving outcomes and the sooner treatment begins, the greater opportunity for learning; and

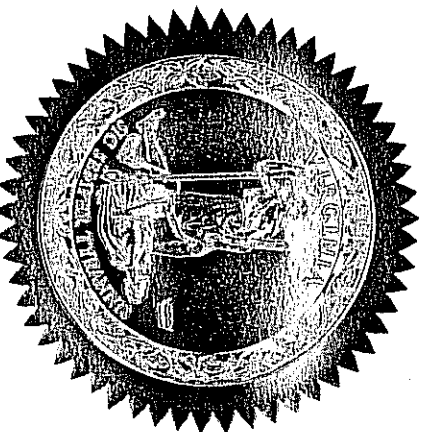
WHEREAS, there is no cure for Rett syndrome, but symptoms can be managed through a multidisciplinary approach that may include medication, monitoring for scoliosis and heart anomalies, occupational therapy for self-directed activities, and physical and hydrotherapy to prolong mobility; and

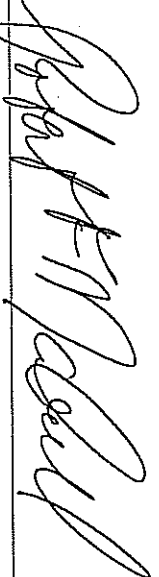
WHEREAS, we still have much to learn about Rett syndrome, but there have been significant advances in diagnosis and promising research; and


WHEREAS, Rett syndrome remains little known in the public and by many in the medical community; and

WHEREAS, October has been designated National Rett Syndrome Awareness Month by the International Rett Syndrome Foundation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert F. McDonnell, do hereby recognize October 2010 as **RETT SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH** in our **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of our citizens.




Governor


Secretary of the Commonwealth