

# STATE OF ALASKA



## *Executive Proclamation by Governor Sean Parnell*

WHEREAS, Rett Syndrome is a devastating neurodevelopmental disorder caused by a genetic mutation on the X chromosome; and

WHEREAS, due to the short life expectancy of boys born with Rett Syndrome, the disease primarily affects females; and

WHEREAS, young girls with Rett Syndrome lose the ability to speak, walk, and control their hands, in addition to experiencing seizures and scoliosis; and

WHEREAS, one out of every 10,000 to 15,000 live female births will have Rett Syndrome world wide, but because symptoms do not typically appear until six to 18 months of age, they are rarely diagnosed at birth; and

WHEREAS, a lifetime of occupational, speech, developmental, and physical therapies are needed for these children to maintain any speech and physical skills; and

WHEREAS, there is no cure for Rett Syndrome, only symptomatic treatments are available; and

WHEREAS, further research is necessary to find better treatments, and an eventual cure for this disease; and

WHEREAS, we honor the dedication of families, caretakers, and communities who support those with neurodevelopmental disorders and assure their quality of life.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Sean Parnell, Governor of the State of Alaska, do hereby proclaim October 2010 as:

### ***Rett Syndrome Awareness Month***

in the State of Alaska, and encourage all citizens to become educated about Rett Syndrome, and to offer support to the Alaskan families who are living with this debilitating childhood illness.

Dated: September 23, 2010



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sean Parnell".

*Sean Parnell, Governor  
who has also authorized the  
seal of the State of Alaska to  
be affixed to this proclamation.*