

# STATE OF OKLAHOMA



## EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

### Proclamation

*Whereas*, Rett syndrome is a devastating neurodevelopmental disorder caused by a genetic mutation of the MECP2 gene on the X chromosome and mainly affects females (rarely males); and

*Whereas*, every 2 hours a girl is born with Rett syndrome, but symptoms usually do not appear until 6 to 18 months later. This disorder does not just affect those living in the United States, it also affects families worldwide. It does not discriminate as to race, color or creed, social or economic class; and

*Whereas*, girls are generally born healthy before 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, lose control of their hands (hand washing), have seizures, digestive problems, and develop scoliosis; and

*Whereas*, the most severe handicap that a girl with Rett syndrome has is apraxia, which means that a girl is unable to perform tasks or movements when asked; and

*Whereas*, dedicated scientists and researchers in the U.S. and around the world are working vigorously to find treatments and a cure; this, coming from the 2007 scientific discovery of the reversal of Rett symptoms in lab models. We are on the brink of finding suitable treatments to help with certain symptoms of this disorder; and

*Whereas*, we must continue our efforts in raising awareness in the medical community; therapists, caregivers, teachers, our elected representatives, and the general public as well. We support this shared mission now more than ever, and together progress will continue until there is a world with no Rett;

*Now, therefore*, I, Mary Fallin, Governor of the State of Oklahoma, do hereby proclaim month of October, 2012 as

#### "Rett Syndrome Awareness Month"

in the State of Oklahoma 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 Oklahoma to be affixed.



ATTEST:

Assistant SECRETARY OF STATE

*Michelle R. Day*

GOVERNOR

*Mary Fallin*

*Done at the Capitol, in the City of Oklahoma City, this 19th day of September, in the Year of Our Lord two thousand and twelve, and of the State of Oklahoma in the one hundred and fourth year.*