

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 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, 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 the girl has the will to move but is unable to carry through with that movement; 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 must have funding available for researchers who are dedicated in finding a cure for Rett syndrome. 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, MATTHEW H. MEAD, GOVERNOR of the state of Wyoming, do hereby proclaim

OCTOBER 2012 AS RETT SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH

and to 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 Executive Seal of the Governor of Wyoming to be affixed this 1st day of October 2012.

Matthew H. Mead
Governor