

Bill Walker
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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RETT SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH

September 18, 2017

WHEREAS, Rett syndrome is a genetic neurological disorder that occurs almost exclusively in females, symptoms of which usually do not appear until six to eighteen months after birth; and

WHEREAS, the disorder can lead to lifelong impairments with multiple dysfunctions: speech is lost, seizures can develop, and scoliosis occurs; many with the disorder develop irregular breathing patterns, and more than half of the girls and women with Rett syndrome lose their ability to walk. The hallmark sign of Rett syndrome is near constant repetitive hand movements while awake; and

WHEREAS, those diagnosed with Rett syndrome require maximum assistance with daily living activities; and

WHEREAS, the disorder is not degenerative and research is proving that symptoms could be reversed even after decades of occurrence; and

WHEREAS, Alaska supports those who contribute to Rett syndrome research, addressing the full spectrum of this developmental disorder while advocating to improve the quality of life for the patients and their families; and

WHEREAS, we applaud the continued efforts to raise awareness to the medical community, therapists, teachers, caregivers, and the general public, and funding for researchers who are dedicated to finding a cure for Rett syndrome.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Bill Walker, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF ALASKA, do hereby proclaim October, 2017 as:

Rett Syndrome Awareness Month

in Alaska, and encourage all Alaskans to support community members that suffer from this disorder and work together for a cure.