

(DATE)

The Honorable (NAME)
(ADDRESS)
(CITY, STATE, ZIP)

Dear (NAME),

Imagine a disorder that is autism, Parkinson's disease, cerebral palsy, anxiety disorders and epilepsy, all rolled into one illness, and that's Rett syndrome. My name is (NAME) and my daughter, (NAME) (OTHER RELATION NAME) was born with Rett syndrome. I am requesting that you proclaim October 2018 as **RETT SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH** for our great state of (YOUR STATE). Last year we were successful in obtaining twenty four state, city and county Rett Syndrome Awareness proclamations. (THANK YOUR GOVERNOR IF HE/SHE SIGNED A PROCLAMATION IN THE PAST) We are hopeful for even greater participation again this year.

Not knowing how familiar you may be with Rett syndrome, I would like to share some very important information with you. Rett syndrome is a postnatal neurologic disorder that occurs almost exclusively in females and becomes apparent after 6-18 months of early normal development. It results in a regression that leads to lifelong impairments. Those afflicted with this disorder have multiple dysfunctions: speech is lost, seizures develop and scoliosis occurs, many develop irregular breathing patterns, and more than half of the girls and women lose their ability to walk. Those diagnosed with Rett syndrome require maximum assistance with even the most basic daily activities. The hallmark sign of Rett syndrome is near constant repetitive hand movements while awake. Every two hours a girl is born with Rett syndrome; and, every expectant family is at risk of having a child with Rett syndrome as it is not hereditary but rather a random, genetic disorder.

My (OTHER RELATION NAME, AGE) (WRITE SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR RETT CHILD, MAKE IT PERSONAL)

Although there is no cure at the present time, there is good news! With the amazing discovery of the reversal of Rett syndrome symptoms in lab models in 2007, we now know that this disease **can be cured**. Current research shows that Rett syndrome could be the first reversible genetic brain disorder, and also, unlock the door to treatments and a cure for other neurological disorders, such as autism and schizophrenia.

It is my hope that you will join with other governors by declaring October 2018, as **RETT SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH** for (YOUR STATE NAME). Our State Proclamation for Rett syndrome is valuable for our fundraising events and will also help educate our medical, educational, and our congressional representatives. Our State Proclamation is especially valuable in raising much needed awareness for the general public about this devastating disorder.

Thank you for your attention in this matter and I will be glad to provide you with any additional information I can. You may also visit Rettsyndrome.org for more information.

Sincerely,
(YOUR NAME)
(YOUR ADDRESS)