



**THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNMENT HOUSE
Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802
340-774-0001**

RETT SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Most residents of the Territory may not be aware of what Rett Syndrome is and it is possible that any resident of the Territory may be afflicted by this disease and therefore there is a need for public awareness of this disorder; and

WHEREAS, Rett syndrome is a rare postnatal genetic neurological disorder that occurs almost exclusively in females, and rarely in males; and

WHEREAS, Every 2 hours a girl is born with Rett syndrome, but its symptoms usually do not appear until age 6 to 18 months; and

WHEREAS, A regression period follows where acquired motor skills are lost, leading to lifelong impairments including loss of speech, seizures, scoliosis, and irregular breathing patterns; and

WHEREAS, Those diagnosed with Rett syndrome require maximum assistance with daily living activities because more than half of those affected lose their ability to walk; and

WHEREAS, The disorder is not degenerative and biomedical research in mice suggests that neurological symptoms may be reversed even after decades of severe symptoms; and

WHEREAS, *Because of* the discovery of the gene that causes Rett syndrome in 1999, laboratory research that proves the theory of reversibility of the disease being found in 2007, the discovery of breakthrough testing in vitro models in 2010, and the present launch of six disease-modifying human clinical trials, now is an unprecedented and historic moment in time to continue to fund truly life-changing research surrounding Rett syndrome; and

WHEREAS, Rettsyndrome.org is the world's largest private source of funds for Rett syndrome research addressing the full spectrum of this developmental disorder, and is an organization that brings awareness as well as advocates and improves the quality of life for patients and their families; and

WHEREAS, It is necessary that we bring awareness to the disorder and its possible cure in the Territory of the United States Virgin Islands, and join other states, cities and counties who have made

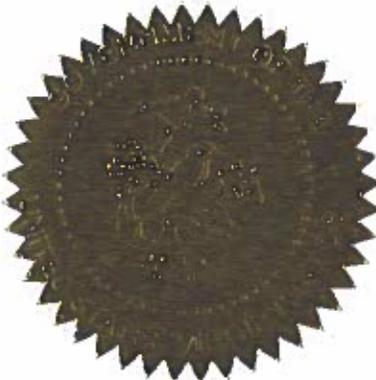
proclamations and resolutions for a Rett syndrome awareness month; and

WHEREAS, We must have funding available for researchers who are dedicated to finding a cure for Rett syndrome, in order to promote a future for those who suffer from the disease and until there is a world without Rett syndrome; and

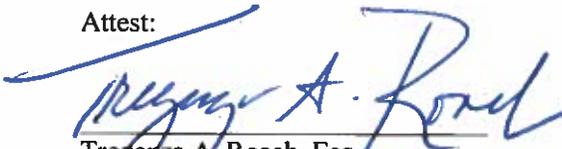
WHEREAS, Issuance of a proclamation will help promote further awareness and funding for the treatment of Rett Syndrome to the medical community, therapists, teachers, caregivers, and the general public.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Albert Bryan, Jr., Governor of the Virgin Islands of the United States, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands, as amended, do hereby proclaim the month of October 2021 as *Rett Syndrome Awareness Month* in the Virgin Islands. I call upon all residents of the territory to become aware and advocate for treatment as well as continued medical research for a cure for all who suffer from the disease in our community, and to work towards the elimination of Rett Syndrome.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States to be affixed at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, this 10TH day of September, A. D. 2021.




Albert Bryan, Jr.
Governor

Attest:

Tregenza A. Roach, Esq.
Lieutenant Governor