



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RETT SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH
October 2019

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

WHEREAS, every two hours, a girl is born with Rett syndrome, but symptoms usually do not appear until six to eighteen months later; and

WHEREAS, a regression period leads to lifelong impairments with multiple dysfunctions, such as loss of speech, seizures, scoliosis, and irregular breathing patterns, and more than half of those affected 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, with the discovery of the gene that causes Rett syndrome in 1999, research that proved the theory of reversibility of the disease in 2007, the discovery of breakthrough testing models in 2010, and the launch of multiple disease modifying human clinical trials, we have reached an unprecedented and historic moment in time where we must do everything possible to fund the truly lifechanging research in front of us; and

WHEREAS, the International Rett Syndrome Foundation is the world's largest private source of funds for 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 must continue our efforts in bringing awareness to the medical community, therapists, teachers, caregivers, and the public. We must have funding available for researchers who are dedicated to 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 without Rett syndrome.

THEREFORE, I, Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim the month of October 2019 as RETT SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH. I encourage all Pennsylvanians to advocate in support of the work that families, children with Rett syndrome, and medical professionals are undertaking to cure this disorder.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, this twenty-fifth day of August two thousand nineteen, the year of the commonwealth the two hundred forty-fourth.

Tom Wolf
TOM WOLF
Governor