

2017 Rett Syndrome Awareness Month

10/1/2017

WHEREAS, the health and safety of all Virginians is important to the happiness, prosperity, and well-being of our Commonwealth's families and communities; and

WHEREAS, Rett syndrome is a rare neuro-developmental disorder that affects the way the brain develops and shows its effects in infancy or early childhood; and

WHEREAS, Rett syndrome is almost exclusively found in females and affects an estimated one in 8,500 females; and

WHEREAS, Rett syndrome is characterized by normal early growth and development, followed by a slowing of development resulting in the loss of purposeful hand movement, the ability to speak, and the ability to walk; and

WHEREAS, although there is no cure for Rett syndrome, there are a number of treatments that assist with the symptoms of the disorder, such as: regular medical care, medication, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech-language therapy, nutritional support, behavioral intervention, and support services; and

WHEREAS, Rettsyndrome.org advocates on behalf of those who are affected by Rett syndrome by raising awareness, providing support, and offering a better future through research, diagnosis, education, and treatment; and

WHEREAS, it is vital that Rett syndrome patients have access to quality, affordable care, and that research of this tragic disease continues, as there is no known cure;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Terence R. McAuliffe, do hereby recognize October 2017 as **RETT SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH** in our **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.