Governor's Proclamation

Rett Syndrome Awareness Month

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

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

WHEREAS: A regression period leads to lifelong impairments with multiple dysfunctions: speech is lost, seizures can develop and scoliosis occurs, many develop irregular breathing patterns, and more than half of the girls and women 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 biomedical research in mice suggests that neurological symptoms may be reversed even after decades of severe symptoms; and

WHEREAS: With the discovery of the gene that causes Rett syndrome (1999), research in the lab that proves the theory of reversibility of the disease (2007), the discovery of breakthrough testing in vitro models (2010) and the launch of multiple disease-modifying human clinical trials (present), we now reach an unprecedented and historic moment in time where we must do everything possible to fund the truly life-changing research in front of us; 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 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 general public as well. We must have funding available for researchers who are dedicated in 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.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wyoming to be affixed this September 1, 2019.

The Honorable Mark Gordon
33rd Governor of the Great State of Wyoming