



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION RETT SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS: Every two hours, a girl is born with Rett syndrome. This disorder not only affects families in Georgia, but also around the nation and worldwide; and

WHEREAS: Rett syndrome is a devastating neurodevelopmental disorder caused by a sporadic, genetic mutation of the MECP2 gene on the X chromosome. It mainly affects females, and symptoms usually do not appear until six to 18 months after birth. Girls are generally born healthy before they begin to show signs of regression, or stagnation of milestones that would otherwise be routinely accomplished; and

WHEREAS: Those diagnosed with Rett syndrome lose their ability to speak, walk, lose hand control, and suffer from seizures and scoliosis. The most severe handicap is apraxia, where there is an inability to carry out learned purposeful movement due to the mutated gene; and

WHEREAS: In 2007, a reversal of Rett syndrome was discovered in mice suffering symptoms. Scientists and researchers across the globe are working to find suitable treatments to help with certain symptoms, as well as discover a cure for Rett syndrome; and

WHEREAS: October is Rett Syndrome Awareness Month, and a time to raise awareness in the medical community and the general public about this disorder that impacts so many lives here in Georgia and around the globe; now

THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim October, 2011, as RETT SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 20th day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand eleven.



Nathan Deal

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

C. W. R.

CHIEF OF STAFF