



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

**A PROCLAMATION**  
**RETT SYNDROME AWARENESS**  
**MONTH**

- WHEREAS:** Rett syndrome is a rare postnatal genetic neurological disorder that occurs almost exclusively in females, and rarely males; and
- WHEREAS:** Every two hours a girl is born with Rett syndrome, but its symptoms usually do not appear until six to eighteen months of age; 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. 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:** 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 in 1999, lab research that proves the theory of reversibility of the disease in 2007, the discovery of breakthrough testing in vitro models in 2010, and the launch of six disease-modifying human clinical trials and more in the pipeline, we have reached an unprecedented and historic moment in time; and
- WHEREAS:** Rett Syndrome Awareness Month provides an important opportunity to bring awareness to the medical community, therapists, teachers, caregivers, and the general public; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim October 2019 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 12<sup>th</sup> day of September in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Nineteen.



*B. Kemp*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Teresa K. Fleming*

CHIEF OF STAFF