

**STATE OF ARKANSAS**  
**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Rett syndrome is a genetic neurological disorder that occurs almost exclusively in females. Every two hours a girl is born with Rett syndrome, but its symptoms usually do not appear until six to eighteen months; and

WHEREAS: A regression period leads to lifelong impairments with multiple dysfunctions: speech loss, seizures, scoliosis, 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 is proving neurological symptoms could be reversed even after decades of severe symptoms; and

WHEREAS: With the discovery of the gene that causes Rett syndrome in 1999, research in the lab proving the theory of reversibility of the disease in 2007, the discovery of breakthrough testing models in 2010 and the recent launch of multiple disease-modifying human clinical trials, it is imperative the research continue in order to find a cure; and

WHEREAS: The International Rett Syndrome Foundation (IRSF) works to fund research to improve the quality of life for the patients and their families; and

WHEREAS: The State of Arkansas joins with the IRSF's efforts to bring awareness to the medical community, therapists, teachers, caregivers and the general public so that progress will continue until there is a world without Rett syndrome;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim October 2015, as

**NATIONAL RETT SYNDROME  
AWARENESS MONTH IN ARKANSAS**

across the State, and I urge all citizens to join me in raising awareness about this debilitating disease.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 25<sup>th</sup> day of August, in the year of our Lord 2015.



  
Asa Hutchinson, Governor

  
Mark Martin, Secretary Of State