

By: Senator G. Stubblefield

SENATE RESOLUTION

TO PROCLAIM OCTOBER 2021 RETT SYNDROME AWARENESS
MONTH.

Subtitle

TO PROCLAIM OCTOBER 2021 RETT SYNDROME
AWARENESS MONTH.

WHEREAS, Rett syndrome is a rare postnatal genetic neurological disorder that occurs almost exclusively in females, and rarely in males; and

WHEREAS, the symptoms of Rett syndrome usually do not appear until six (6) to eighteen (18) months after birth; and

WHEREAS, a regression period follows in which acquired motor skills are lost, leading to lifelong impairments, including loss of speech, seizures, scoliosis, and irregular breathing patterns. 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, research in the laboratory that proved the theory of reversibility of the disease in 2007, the discovery of breakthrough testing using in vitro models in 2010, and the launch of multiple disease-modifying human clinical trials recently, we have now reached an unprecedented and historic moment in time when we must do everything possible to fund the truly life-changing research in front of us; and

WHEREAS, we should continue our efforts in bringing awareness to the medical community, therapists, teachers, caregivers, and the general public, and support researchers who are dedicated to finding a cure for Rett syndrome; and

WHEREAS, the State of Arkansas supports this shared mission,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the Senate proclaim October 2021 as Rett Syndrome Awareness Month in Arkansas.