

THE NATIONAL DAY TO PREVENT TEEN PREGNANCY

MAY 4
2011

SAMPLE RESOLUTION/PROCLAMATION LANGUAGE

Whereas:

- More than 700,000 teenagers become pregnant each year;
- Despite progress over the last decade, three in ten teenagers in the United States become pregnant, the highest teen pregnancy rate among comparable countries;
- Latina and African-American teen girls are more likely than not to become pregnant before the age of twenty, and Native American teens have a birth rate more than double that of non-Hispanic white teens;
- Teen pregnancy is closely linked to a number of critical social issues such as poverty, educational attainment, involvement in the criminal justice and child welfare systems, and more;
- Teen childbearing costs U.S. taxpayers \$9.1 billion each year, most of which is due to costs associated with negative social and health outcomes for the children of teen parents;
- Less than half of mothers who have a child before they turn 18 ever graduate from high school, and less than two percent of mothers who have children before 18 have a college degree by age 30;
- A child is nine times more likely to grow up in poverty if he or she is born to unmarried teen parents who have not yet completed high school;
- Nearly all teens and adults say that reducing teen pregnancy is a very effective way to reduce the high school drop out rate and improve academic achievement;
- Children of teen mothers are more likely to be born prematurely and at low birthweight;
- Children of teen parents are two times more likely to suffer abuse and neglect than would occur if their mothers had delayed childbearing;
- Fully 73 percent of adults and a plurality of teens wish that teens were getting more information about both abstinence and contraception, rather than either/or;
- The vast majority of both teens and adults agree that religious leaders and groups should be doing more to prevent teen pregnancy;
- Nine in ten adults agree that there should be direct efforts in their communities to prevent teen pregnancy;

Now, therefore, I, _____ do hereby proclaim [May 4, 2011/the month of May] as the [National Day/Month] to Prevent Teen Pregnancy in the [city/state] of _____.

OR

It is the sense of the [Congress/Legislature] that [the nation/name of state] should intensify its efforts to reduce the high rates of teen pregnancies and births by declaring May 4, 2011 the National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy and by raising awareness about the importance of this critical issue, promoting parent-child communication, and investing in programs that have been proven to reduce teen pregnancy