



Teen Childbearing and Taxes: What's the Connection? National Conference Call Transcript March 22, 2007

OPERATOR: Excuse me everyone, we now have our speakers in conference. Please be aware that each of your lines is in a listen-only mode. At the conclusion of the presentation we will open the floor for questions. At that time, instructions will be given if you would like to ask a question. I would now like to turn the conference over to Kristen Tertzakian.

KRISTEN TERTZAKIAN: Well hello and welcome everyone. Thank you for joining today's conference call which is "Teen Childbearing and Taxes: What's the Connection?"

Again, my name is Kristen Tertzakian. I'm from the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy and I'm happy to report that we have more than a hundred people on the call today from 33 states and DC. We have a mix of people from state and local health departments, state and local coalitions to prevent teen pregnancy, and community based organizations.

I wanted to apologize upfront about the fact that all of your lines are muted. I know that it can sometimes pose problems for when we're trying to foster discussions, but with so many people on the line we felt that was the best thing to do.

So let me give you an overview of today's agenda. I'll start off the call by giving a brief overview of our analysis on the cost of teen childbearing, which is otherwise known as "By the Numbers" and then we'll turn it over to our esteemed panel of presenters. First we'll hear from Bill Albert who, in addition to serving as the National Campaign's Deputy Director, also handles

much of our communication work. He will provide you with some tips on framing the cost data for the media.

Then we'll turn it over to Sudie Davis, who is not only the Executive Director of Communities & Schools of Wayne County in North Carolina, but she also chairs Wayne County's Teen Pregnancy Prevention Task Force. Sudie is going to brief us on her work with the media to highlight the local costs of teen childbearing for Wayne County.

Promoting the cost data with state and local policy makers is crucial and we're happy to have Carla Curran from the National Conference of State Legislatures to provide you with tips for framing the data with policy makers.

And last but not least we'll hear from Helen Robinson, the Legislative Director for GCAPP, which is the Georgia Campaign for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention, and she's going to tell us about her outreach with Georgia Legislators and about GCAPP's lobby day. I hope you've all had a chance to look at GCAPP's website. It's www.gcapp.org. For lack of a better term, they have a count up of the cost of teen childbearing in Georgia as well as the cumulative costs and the cost savings and it's just a really a great way to demonstrate and illustrate the costs on a website.

After the presentations we will have time for question and answers and as the operator mentioned, she will then come on to the call and give directions on how to do so.

So let's begin. As you may know the National Campaign worked with Dr. Rebecca Maynard from the University of Pennsylvania and Dr. Saul Hoffman from the University of Delaware to update the national public costs of teen childbearing. This was last calculated in a study called Kids Having Kids, published by the Urban Institute in 1996. We also worked with Saul Hoffman to produce, for the first time, state level cost estimates. Our main project goal was to compare the public costs associated with the births to a mother 19 and younger to the costs associated with a mother who delays her first birth to 20 to 21 years old. We wanted to

know what's the impact on the mother's subsequent life outcomes, the fathers and their child, and what does that cost taxpayers?

So in a snapshot, we found that teen childbearing costs our nation's taxpayers at least \$9.1 billion annually. The state costs range from about \$12 million in Vermont to \$1 billion in Texas. Our website has many materials for you to download and use including a national report and summary; state specific fact sheets and press releases; and state by state tables on a variety of measures. We also have state dollar bills which is a really creative way to communicate the costs. For those of you who haven't seen them, they look like real dollar bills, almost like a bookmark and we have the outline of your state in the center and then your state's cost to teen childbearing in the dollar amount. These are great for passing out at conferences, to your local grantees and partners, and also for state legislators and policymakers. We have some great stories from around the country of the creative ways that they have been using it.

We also have an online calculator to figure out your county, city, or town's cost of teen childbearing. All you need to know is the number of births for 19 and younger in your community.

Now the cost data was not used on October 30 and then something that just died the next day on November 1st. We continually come across news articles that highlight the cost data in national, state and local publications across the country and Bill will give us an update on that. Organizations are continuing to use this data to reach out to policymakers and the public and we really hope this is something that you will disseminate to your partners over the coming years. And Tax Day on April 17 is truly a ripe opportunity to highlight the cost data in your state or community. We included a number of publicly funded programs in our analysis, including lost state tax revenue for teen mothers, teen fathers, and the children of teen parents. Now this comes into play due to the lower educational attainment for teen mothers, fathers and their children which then translates into lower paying jobs and less spending. The

overwhelming consequences and public costs are to the children of teen parents. Among the four costs we looked at—child welfare, health care, incarceration and lost tax revenue—the lost tax revenue was the most costly at \$2.9 billion nationally. When you look at the state cost breakdown, loss tax revenue was the number one cost for 29 states. So again, Tax Tay is just another opportunity for you to get the cost data in front of the press, in front of policy makers, and we hope you're able to do that outreach.

Well I'm going to turn the call over the experts to give you ideas on who to use the cost data in your state and community and let's start with Bill Albert, the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy's Deputy Director.

BILL ALBERT: Good afternoon everybody and welcome to the call and to all the presenters.

Of course if you are interested in garnering the attention of policy makers and others, one of the most direct and I would maintain easiest ways to do that is through the press, and the good news here for all of us, is that we now have some evidence that there is real and ongoing press interest in these costs of teen childbearing, this new data.

Just quickly to tell you where we are, we released this in late October and the cost data has already been picked up in over 164 newspaper articles nationwide, national, state, and local press; everything from *USA Today* to the smallest community newspaper. These articles have appeared in 33 states in the District of Columbia and the combined circulation of this coverage is over 18 million and we're not even talking about any television or radio coverage. I recite these numbers simply to provide encouragement that the press does want to cover this stuff and I think there's an opportunity for us out there.

In my time here I'm going to offer up five very modest ideas on how I think you can practically generate some news coverage on these cost data.

First, teen pregnancy as you all well know and sort of related issues, are mostly in the purview of teen beat writers and those who deal with reproductive health or style section reporters, et cetera. With Tax Day ahead, as Kristen noted, it is the perfect opportunity, I think, to target teen pregnancy stories to the most unlikely reporter on staff, and that is the business reporter. So consider pitching a tailored press story directly to the business page.

Prior to coming to the Campaign I spent a number of years in the television news business and one thing I remember from those days is that we were always looking for a new twist on a story that you had to do every year, like tax filing stories. I think this provides a really different twist on a story that these business folks know they have to cover. So that's one idea.

The second idea I think is a very practical one. Over the past several months I have probably fielded, I don't know, somewhere in the neighborhood of 50 to 75 press calls. Most of these press calls were not about the cost data. They were calling about something else. They wanted to know why the teen pregnancy rates were going down or they wanted us to talk about the current issue of the day. But in almost every case I tried to work in a mention of the cost data and for the most part it was well received. It didn't always end of up in the article but oftentimes a reporter would say "great I'll put that in", or "that's really interesting, I'm glad to know that. I may get back to that." So again just a very practical tip. The next time that you talk to the press or respond to a press call on this topic of teen pregnancy and childbearing, don't forget to mention the cost data.

My third idea here is of course there are more ways to generate press attention than just news articles themselves. I mean that requires some heavy lifting. You have to pitch the reporter and hope that they'll cover and hope that they're not doing something else that day and that they'll remember you and all that stuff. So that's good to do and obviously we're encouraging you to do that, but also consider the power of some other ways to get into the paper. One of them of course is a well placed opinion piece. Perhaps you can even think of an

unusual suspect to sign the Op Ed. Perhaps a board member, perhaps a prominent member of the community who is not necessarily associated with reproductive health issues per se. Maybe they could sign or write the Op Ed for you. The other thing that is really quite simple is consider a letter to the editor on or about tax time. Say well here's something we might not be thinking about and simply just write a letter to the editor. Often times those letters end up turning into Op Ed pieces. If the letter is particularly well done, the editorial board may call you up and say can you write a longer piece for us. And of course, another thing you can do is to try to set up a formal meeting with the editorial board of your local newspaper or with the Public Affairs Department of your local television station. You can talk about the cost data. You can talk about teen pregnancy in general.

A fourth idea, as Kristen mentioned earlier, we have some images, what we call state dollar bills that have an outline of a state and the costs which we're happy to send to you all. If you think it would help you, and sometimes it does, we will be happy to send this to you as an image file that you could attach to your pitch to a reporter. Sometimes having a little graphic image may not always carry the day, but it might tilt the reporter in your direction so we'd be happy to e-mail you an image of your state.

The fifth and final idea here, and this I think this is a natural lead into the next panelist, to Sudie, is I'm reminded of Tip O'Neill, the former Speaker of the House who famously said that all politics is local, and of course on a story like this I think the more you can localize the data, the better off you are. I think many of you are aware that of course we have state level data here but as Kristen mentioned earlier, we also now have, and I don't think as many are familiar with this cost calculator, where you can very simply figure out county level data, zip code data, neighborhood data. So imagine going to your local newspaper and providing the cost of teen childbearing by zip code. It's relatively easy to do on our website and I think a very powerful

way to get your story across. So those are my five modest ideas and I look forward to the questions at the end of this session.

KRISTEN TERTZAKIAN: Thank you very much Bill and that is a great segue into our next panelist, Sudie Davis, who is the Executive Director of Communities in Schools of Wayne County, in North Carolina. So I'll turn it over to you Sudie.

SUDIE DAVIS: Thank you. Kristen asked me if I would share what led to an article that was in our local paper, and what led to that was that I chair the WATCH Teen Pregnancy Task Force, and that's Wayne Action Teams for Community Health. One of their main focuses is teen pregnancy. That morning I came in early to do the minutes from the last meeting and prepare the agenda for our meeting and I always check teenpregnancy.org and the adolescent pregnancy prevention sites here in North Carolina if I can find new data. And I came across - I had seen the state report the month before on the state website, but I was so tickled when I went to costs section under teenpregnancy.org and then I saw the little cost calculator and I thought well I wonder what that is? When I went to it I realized I could put in my state and the number of teen pregnancies in our county. That's what I did. It came out to \$7,497,000 and I was still gasping as the first member walked in the door. We talked about that. I printed the information out and we talked about it in our meeting and we decided that this would be a great way for us to leverage some press coverage.

So after the meeting I called the local newspaper reporter who often follows up on our committee, and when Phyllis and I talked she said I'll come out if it's okay later this morning. She did just that and we sat and talked for quite a while and talked about teen pregnancy in general and some other things, like the impact it has on our community. I also gave her copies of the information, and I think you received a copy of the article that appeared in the *Goldsboro*

News-Argus. That same day there was a really great editorial that Renee Casey did, so we were excited not only to have front page top center, with a huge headline, but also an editorial that addressed the issues of teen pregnancy.

I will tell you that since that time, I've received a call from a lady who said "I got pregnant at 15 and got married and I will be glad to talk to any groups." When I told the reporter that she had called, she said "would she talk to me?" So right now I'm really pleased to tell you that I talked with the reporter yesterday and she said that she had interviewed this lady. She said it was a great interview and she's working on a follow up story from the side that talks about the impact of the early pregnancy on this lady's life. She did marry the father of the child. They're still married but the thing that she said to me is, "we've always struggled because we didn't have the education that we should have had." She was willing to talk with the reporter about that.

So we're really excited and we know that there's another article coming from my stumbling across the cost calculator on the website. We were so excited because this group has been meeting for about five years and we've done a lot that we're at a point where we're trying to think what can we do. This was really exciting because we could tailor it to the cost for our community. I think because of that, it's had a really dramatic impact. The next day I had e-mails from several people on the great article, so I think it's just a way for us to leverage press coverage.

KRISTEN TERTZAKIAN: Thank you so much Sudie. I think that's really inspiring for other local communities and groups across the country, again, to pitch this, to localize the data, pitch it to the newspapers and the press and also to other local partners. Thank you so much.

SUDIE DAVIS: You're welcome.

KRISTEN TERTZAKIAN: Well now let's switch gears just a little bit and start talking about policymakers and state legislators. So I'll turn it over to Carla Curran of the National Conference of State Legislatures.

CARLA CURRAN: Thank you Kristen and I want to thank Kristen and the Campaign for inviting me to speak. It's always great to be able to talk to people about state legislators and state legislatures and how they work.

I want to tell you a little bit about our organization. I'm just going to put it in a nutshell because I'm limited with the time because I could talk a lot. We are a member organization for all 50 state legislatures, and all legislators and legislative staff are our members. We provide outreach information, technical assistance, you name it. As far as what legislators need, we generally provide it. We cover every topic you can imagine and I still get surprised when I get an odd call about something I'd never heard of. We generally can find information and see what other states are doing on it and that's generally how things work. We get calls from legislators or staff asking about what other states have done in certain areas and what they're doing and things like that. We work on all issues.

Which leads me to my first point which is important to understand about legislators is they're generalists. They work on dozens of topics. They see hundreds of bills. It's difficult for them to be experts in all areas. Some legislators focus on certain areas. They work on certain committees but it's very difficult even within one topic area, does it really specifically health related even just focusing on that issue, teen pregnancy, would be considered a blip on the radar screen. There are so many health issues and so many big time health issues right now with reforming state systems for health care and getting coverage for the uninsured. These are just huge issues right now across the board, but in health they are just huge. It's important to be

realistic when you're talking to legislators because if you were to expect someone to have this issue or your issue, or whatever it is that you're looking at with a legislator, to have them on top of their list, I think that might be an unrealistic expectation. It's important to understand that.

My next thing I wanted to mention are those barriers. There are many competing needs and demands on their time. There are new legislators who don't know anything about some of these issues so they're getting up to speed. There's a lack of awareness and understanding on these issues. Plus there's competing needs from every direction; budgets, other committees. I realize I'm sounding negative, and I don't mean to sound negative. I just want to be realistic and paint a realistic picture. Now having said that, I would like to give you some suggestions.

You've got to know where you're starting from. Identify your strengths, your barriers, and potential solutions. You also have to look at what's your ultimate goal. What you want to do and who are your partners in getting to where you want to go. You know, Bill mentioned about media. Are there media partners that you can go work with, and Bill's absolutely right, all politics are local so get local partners in people's districts to work with you. If you want to call awareness to the issue in a certain area, I think that that's really key. It's important to understand who the legislators are, who are champions of your issues. There might be people who introduced a bill. I was doing research; you have an article that Kristen e-mailed. I was doing research for that article and was surprised to find someone in what I would consider a mountain, remote community in Colorado had a bill, has a Medicaid program in a couple of counties and has been very successful in preventing subsequent pregnancies and that was something I wouldn't have expected for a rural, mountain community to have that but they have a champion, that legislator. So look for people like that.

The other thing that is really important is to understand the legislator. This sounds like basic things and I know a lot of people on the call work in state policy or work for the health department and they understand these things but I'm always surprised that a lot of people don't

understand. When does the legislature meet? Who's going to be considering your issue? What committee is it going to go to? What's the best way to express your opinion to that committee if there's a bill? It's really important and I won't burden you with the whole "how a bill becomes a law thing" right now, but try to understand the best you can the process. A lot of legislatures have schedules for their committees or public input. You can go and give testimony. You know Bill mentioned doing an editorial but this would be making time to go if there's a bill related to teen pregnancy, to go and give testimony to a committee and that, you know, sometimes those things get some press too so that's a good thing to understand.

My last point is going to be, and this is really one of the most important things, is to illustrate your point. I cannot say how much this National Campaign's data on the cost means. Costs are obviously a tremendous way to get legislative attention. You know, all that information came out within the past couple of years. One of the hugest issues I'm sure you all realize in health is chronic disease and obesity right now. When those dollar amounts came out from the CDC, they we're just staggering, and you know five years ago obesity wasn't that big of an issue nationally, policy wise. Now it's just a really big issue. I think a lot of that can be attributed to people realizing what the costs are and what the cost of health insurance and all of those things. I think cost data is an excellent way to get your legislatures attention.

Kristen mentioned the dollar bills. We had a session in our meeting in the fall with NCSL Human Services Committee, which is all state legislators, and Sarah Brown from the Campaign came out and spoke. We gave out the dollar bills and I think people really were stunned to see the numbers. Everybody thought the dollar bills were cool, so I put in a plug for those there. I hope I haven't gone over my time but please let me know or I can answer questions. The other thing I wanted to mention, I had earlier today e-mailed Kristen a handout which she is going to include in a follow up e-mail and that lists dos and don'ts of legislators. It's pretty simple and

concise and my contact information is on that handout if you would like to reach me later. So that's it. Thank you.

KRISTEN TERTZAKIAN: Thank you very much Carla. That was really helpful. Now let's move now to our last presenter Helen Robinson who is the Policy Director at the Georgia Campaign for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention.

HELEN ROBINSON: Thank you Kristen. GCAPP has an annual legislative reception where we invite all of our state legislators during the general assembly sessions to come together to mingle with adolescent service providers and advocates for youth issues. We have speakers and we have takeaways that they can take with them to try to educate them about teen pregnancy and to just keep the issue on their mind because as was just said, they have so much going on that it's important to just remind them to think about the issue.

We wanted the theme this year to be the Value of Prevention. We knew that the legislators would be in the midst of their state budget debates at the time, and there are always threats to cut services that are important to teen pregnancy prevention efforts in the state, and so we thought it would be a great idea to take the By the Numbers information and to use it to help reframe the issue for them so that they realize that investing in prevention is sound fiscal policy, that you actually save money by putting the money in on the front end. We had the dollar bills there which Kristen provided and they just flew out of the place. We didn't have any left and they were very popular as a visual that people could easily carry around with them. We also produced a fact sheet out of our office called "Teen Pregnancy and the Georgia Economy" and we used By the Numbers information and just put in some more Georgia facts and that's available on our website as well.

What we did is before the reception, we mailed the fact sheet to all the freshman legislators and told them that we wanted to introduce ourselves but also to help them understand the By the Numbers information. We think that was effective. Then we had a poster display that people could go up to and we used the image of the dollar bill and the facts and talked more about that theme.

We also had a speaker who is very well known in the university and the business world in the state of Georgia, Dr. Betty Siegel. She had recently been appointed to the Commission for a New Georgia which our governor created. The goal of the commission is to make state government more efficient, so we thought it was a really nice connection to have her talk about how, again, investing in teen pregnancy prevention is actually the most efficient thing that the state can do about this issue.

Lastly we tied this whole topic in with our statewide reduction goal, which we've also created in conjunction with the National Campaign's request to have all states create a new goal. Ours is "15 by 15," which is a 15% reduction in the teen pregnancy rate by year 2015. The way this was helpful to launching our goal was that we could say look at the savings that reducing our teen pregnancy rate has had to date and then think about the savings that we can achieve in the future if we continue to make sure that our rates decline, so it was very helpful for launching our goal as well.

We think that the message was well received by the legislators and their staff and we are going to continue to use that message whenever we meet with them one on one we're going to bring By the Numbers information and continue to emphasize the value of prevention.

As Kristen mentioned we've also been doing some stuff on our website that we hope you'll take a look at, and I plan now to do some more localized fact sheets that some of our partners across the state can give to their Chambers of Commerce or local press, or local

elective officials that include that county data. We just plan to keep moving along with some of these initiatives.

KRISTEN TERTZAKIAN: Well thank you very much Helen. That was really helpful and very on-key. Well now we'll move to question and answers.

OPERATOR: At this time we'll open the floor for questions. If you would like to ask a question, please press the star key followed by the one key on your touch tone phone now. Questions will be taken in the order in which they are received. If at any time you would like to remove yourself from the questioning queue, press star, two. Once again that's star one for question.

Our first question comes from Judy Galinski.

JUDY GALINSKI: Yes, I was wondering as far as our teen pregnancy problem here in Pennsylvania, our students are feeling that the students that get pregnant are given a lot of things for free, whereas the money that's being paid for college and apartments could be spent in a better way. What do you feel about that?

BILL ALBERT: Well I think that that's not an uncommon feeling from what we've heard from teenagers, just in general. Some of them say "why don't any adults pay attention to us before we get into some trouble? It seems that the only way we can get any attention from the adults in our lives is if we do something wrong." So in some way I don't think that's an unusual thing to hear. You know, I'm not really sure what the answer to that is but I just make that observation that you're probably not alone out there.

JUDY GALINSKI: A lot of our teens say it's better to just get pregnant because you get your college paid for. How can we get them to not feel that way though?

KRISTEN TERTZAKIAN: Well, I don't think that's necessarily the case for other communities across the country. There are some teen parenting programs that help teen mothers and fathers finish high school, care for their children, again perhaps go on to seek higher education. We fully support that. Again I don't know what the answer is and maybe some other state coalitions that are on the phone can offer some words of wisdom. But again I think it's, you know, also having programs to help those that do well in school with college grants and things of that nature.

BILL ALBERT: Just one other modest idea here is that you want to be sure to celebrate the achievements of young people who, you know, the vast majority of whom are making good decisions, doing the right thing. We want to make sure that we publicly celebrate them as much as possible.

KRISTEN TERTZAKIAN: In our messaging for teens, we often say, you know, think about what you want for your children. Finish high school. Maybe go on to seek higher education through college or technical schools. Be in a stable, caring relationship. Wait to have a to have a baby until that point, until you can sufficiently care for your child.

JUDY GALINSKI: Thank you.

OPERATOR: The next question comes from David Humm.

DAVID HUMM: When you all did your law state tax revenue estimates, we're you able to adjust at all for the differences in average income in the states? Those differences can be quite large and when we're working on looking at the numbers, we're wondering whether to adjust them in that way.

KRISTEN TERTZAKIAN: You know I believe we did David, but I should have your contact information for registering for the call so I would be happy to get back to you. But this was very much a state specific analysis, and so without having the report in front of me, if memory recalls, we did.

DAVID HUMM: Okay I have one follow up question also. One other idea we had for our local analysis was to try to estimate lost local tax revenue, and if you all have produced any numbers on actual lost income where you haven't already converted it to lost revenue, that would be really helpful. We weren't able to find that.

KRISTEN TERTZAKIAN: We have that in each state specific analysis on our spreadsheets. I'm not sure if we'll be able to do that for every locality but perhaps what we could do is work with your state to figure it out for your community.

DAVID HUMM: Okay thank you very much.

OPERATOR: The next question comes from Joy Brann.

JOY BRANN: I have two questions and I did want to follow up on the Pennsylvania question. I see that here as well and when young people who don't have very much support, teen

pregnancy can look like, oh I'll get the support I need. I'll get money for college. I'll get money to survive. It's sort of like a career choice. But, again it is a very difficult choice. So choosing to postpone pregnancy is going to get a lot more out of waiting than you will if you think it's an answer; an early answer to a host of other problems.

And then my question has more to do with data. Do we know, I remember reading at one point about the return for every dollar invested in prevention and I'm wondering what that ratio is now? For every dollar that's invested in prevention, what is the cost savings?

BILL ALBERT: Well one thing that the cost report does spell out is if the declines in teen childbearing had not occurred, what would the additional costs have been? So that's one way to look at cost savings and as Helen said earlier, the power of prevention and the importance of investing in prevention. So that's one thing and that data is in the cost report. To my knowledge, and I very well may be wrong here, I don't believe there has been a national estimate calculating X number of dollars in prevention, spell this out over the years in sort of savings. I do know that some particular programs have done that sort of cost calculation but I don't know of any sort of thing on a national level.

JOY BRANN: I do recall it was so many years ago, I think it may have been like for every dollar that goes toward prevention, \$4 is saved in costs, or something like that. That was quite a while ago.

The other question I had, I'm wondering about how emergency contraception figures into this data as well. I know it wasn't mentioned but it would be an interesting area because we are in that momentum with promoting emergency contraception and because of its ability to prevent teen pregnancy, it also is going to affect these outcomes, so I was curious if there was any emphasis or focus on that data as well?

KRISTEN TERTZAKIAN: The analysis did not look at the cost savings for prevention programs or prevention strategies, which I think emergency contraception could be looked at, as a prevention strategy. Again what we looked at was comparing the costs of mothers who start their families at 19 and younger compared to if they delay it by a few years to 20 to 21 years old. How much more likely are they to use public funded programs such as health care, public assistance, et cetera. So we do not take into consideration prevention strategies and prevention programs for states, which would be a very interesting analysis. But that's not what this study looks at.

JOY BRANN: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Your next question comes from Carrie Lewis.

DIANNE SWAN: (sp?) I work with Carrie and I'm Dianne Swan. I was wondering, in your factors for cost savings you were talking about lower taxes, health costs and incarceration, but do you ever consider like education, the cost of educating the children of teenage pregnancies, teenage mothers?

KRISTEN TERTZAKIAN: We did but unfortunately all of the data is based on studies and there is no data depicting or showing costs associated with the education for the children of teen parents.

BILL ALBERT: One way to look at it. It's a very good point and I think from a common sense standpoint there naturally would be some cost associated with lower education levels. As you

probably know through this report and others for that matter, the children of teen parents have lower educational attainment levels. Having said that, I think it's important in why we have always said that this \$9.1 billion cost nationally is a very conservative estimate for reasons such as this. We simply were unable to calculate, because of limitations in the data that's available, what the economic costs might be of this education, and so that's why we think this number is very strong but it's also probably a very, very conservative estimate.

DIANNE SWAN: Okay, were you just considering that these pregnancies were delayed as opposed to averted completely?

BILL ALBERT: Yes. The costs here that were calculated are the costs of teen childbearing to those under the age of 20 compared to those who just delayed childbearing a couple years.

DIANNE SWAN: Okay.

BILL ALBERT: Again it's a very cautious way of doing it and a very conservative way of doing it. But even, I mean you can imagine if the bar had been say age 25 for example, that the cost would have been, I suspect, quite a bit higher.

DIANNE SWAN: Yes.

KRISTEN TERTZAKIAN: So again we're controlling for background characteristics such as poverty, educational status of the mother or the father. The one thing we're changing is the timing of the first birth.

DIANNE SWAN: Okay thanks.

OPERATOR: Once again if you would like to ask a question, please press the star key followed by the one key on your touch tone phone now.

KRISTEN TERTZAKIAN: In addition to asking questions, for those of you on the line who are promoting the cost data in your states and communities, which there are many of you, we would love if you could share your stories as well and make comments.

OPERATOR: Your next question comes from Diane Lang – Diane?

DIANE LANG: Yes, I'm wondering if you can share information as to how you print the dollar bills so that they come out as a good quality item.

BILL ALBERT: Well, first off if you need some, we're happy to send you some that are already printed.

DIANE LANG: Oh, okay.

BILL ALBERT: Now we have a limited supply. I don't want to suggest we're an endless well here, but we do have some which we would be happy to send to you.

DIANE LANG: That would be great.

BILL ALBERT: The second thing is if you would like us to prepare a file so that it is ready for you to print, we'd be happy to do so and send you that file.

DIANE LANG: Okay.

BILL ALBERT: One of the things when we develop these dollar bills is on the back we intentionally left a space empty so that, we hope very easily, you could simply use a regular Avery label, print your own information on it, maybe a website, maybe a local data point, or something like that.

DIANE LANG: And then just stick it on?

BILL ALBERT: And just stick it on the back. But yes, just let us know we'll be happy to send you some state dollar bills and/or the print ready file.

DIANE LANG: So that would go to you Bill? The request would go to you or just to the . . .

KRISTEN TERTZAKIAN: That can actually go to me, this is Kristen Tertzakian and my number is 202-478-8556 and you should all have my e-mail address (inaudible).

DIANE LANG: Great. Thank you very much.

BILL ALBERT: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Your next question comes from Joy Brann.

JOY BRANN: Hi there again. I'm just following up on the contact information. I was unable to pre-register so Kristen your number was 202-478-8556?

KRISTEN TERTZAKIAN: You got it.

JOY BRANN: Okay and is there an e-mail address?

KRISTEN TERTZAKIAN: It's ktertzakian@teenpregnancy.org.

JOY BRANN: Thank you.

OPERATOR: And once again if you would like to ask a question, please press the star key followed by the one key on your touch tone phone.

Our next question comes from Carrie Lewis.

CARRIE LEWIS: Hi this question is for Carla and for Helen about working with state legislators. In California it's not so much difficult to convince legislators that teen pregnancy is a problem and that it's an expensive problem, but the issue comes down more when we try to talk solutions. Could you just maybe offer some experiences or some ideas about how to use the cost data when you get down to discussions that deal with very controversial issues like, do we fund family planning programs that target teens as young as 13? Do we provide funding for emergency contraception for teens? Do we promote access to it and things like that?

CARLA CURRAN: Obviously those are all difficult issues and my suggestion would be to try to find someone who can help you get through the process—a champion for your issue. Those things can be very difficult and they can be, you know, side tracked just by the nature of what you're talking about. The political climate can be very difficult on those things. So I think finding a champion for your issue would be very helpful. It's also interesting, I didn't get to go through all the tips that I had that we talked about, but try to think of other people who might be helpful in your quest. You know, there can be some, like for instance, one of the programs in Texas combines a conservative legislator and a non-conservative legislator to work on an issue together because it addressed, it was a program about getting nurses into homes to meet with pregnant and parenting, young parenting teens and the point of it was to prevent subsequent pregnancies, and it was an issue that sort of everyone could agree on, so if you look at different approaches, you might be able to get support from both sides of the issue.

HELEN ROBINSON: I can just add that when we were using the data this year we were pretty much just trying to hold our ground in terms of what the state is doing for prevention and we weren't really trying to ramp up and get more. But I do think that this data has a lot of value for that because it reframes the issue in a way that I think, that appeals to, as we were saying before, some people who may not even think about teen pregnancy. So I think it does provide an angle to get in to the conversation with some more conservative people or people who have interest in the business community for example, because you can reframe the issue and then lead into and in order to actually further prevent teen pregnancy we need, and then you get into your strategies of what you're asking them to do.

CARRIE LEWIS: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Our next question comes from Judy Herrman.

JUDY HERRMAN: Hi this is Judy Herrman. I'm from Delaware and actually I just want to make a comment. We had used the economic data and we also generated a personal cost study and then a presentation, and as Kristen knows we all went to California. But we found that for the people that really liked economic cost data, which best speaks to just about everyone, we could then personalize the issue by adding the personal cost on education and that. As was mentioned before, by highlighting all of those personal costs, you seem to alleviate some of that issue of teens seeing the economic benefit of a teen pregnancy by then also highlighting the other personal costs. I just wanted to share that.

KRISTEN TERTZAKIAN: Thank you Judy. You guys did a great job of putting a human face on the issue and really bringing forth the challenges for teen mothers and fathers and non-parenting teens as well.

OPERATOR: Your next question comes from Jenny O'Connor.

JENNY O'CONNOR: Hi, I'm in Phoenix, Arizona. I have a question. Here we have a requirement that anyone under the age of 18 must have a prescription for emergency contraception and I was just wondering if that is typically the case across the country.

BILL ALBERT: Well to be honest with you, I don't know off the top of my head. I think that is knowable by going to the Backup Your Birth Control website. I just don't know off the top of my head. It does vary state to state.

CARLA CURRAN: This is Carla from NCSL. If you give me a minute, if we have to take the next question, I can look. I think someone else – I don't track that personally here but I believe someone else at NCSL does so I'll look on the website really quick. If not, my e-mail contact information is available. You can send me an e-mail and I'll direct it. I know there are variations on the laws. I would have to look it up.

JENNY O'CONNOR: That would be wonderful.

KRISTEN TERTZAKIAN: Jenny I believe actually, now that I'm thinking about it, in all states under 18 requires a prescription.

JENNY O'CONNOR: All states. Okay.

KRISTEN TERTZAKIAN: And then over 18 it's behind the counter.

JENNY O'CONNOR: Wonderful.

BILL ALBERT: That's right and that may change. People are working on it, but over the counter status is only for those 18 and over.

JENNY O'CONNOR: Thank you very much.

OPERATOR: Our next question comes from Joy Brann.

JOY BRANN: Hi I just wanted to respond to that last caller. We in Hawaii have just put together a program based on Washington State's program to allow minors between the age of 14 to 17 to get receipt from a pharmacist with a counseling session with the pharmacist. They have to pay for both the counseling visit, which is private, and then for the emergency contraception, but they can get it. So this underage access is something that different states have created and we were guided by Washington State. Don Downing (sp?) is the name of the pharmacist who helped lead us through that process of establishing it for our state.

CARLA CURRAN: This is Carla from NCSL again. We have a page up on our website about it. If you go to NCS, www.ncsl.org and just follow the links to the maternal and child health section there's a section on emergency contraception laws. In just scanning it quickly it doesn't have like specific age requirements but I think it's probably embedded in the descriptions of the laws. I'd be happy to send that link out to anybody if they have trouble finding it.

OPERATOR: Once again if you would like to ask a question, please press the star key followed by the one key on your touch tone phone now. It looks like there are no more questions at this time.

KRISTEN TERTZAKIAN: Thank you very much and it actually looks like were almost at 4 o'clock, so unless there are any other questions, I wanted to thank our wonderful panel of presenters and again encourage you all, whether it's reaching out to some state or local partners, reaching out to the media, state or local policy makers, to really use Tax Day as a hook to get the cost of teen childbearing front and center in your state and community. So again thank you all for your participation today. A transcript of the call will be posted to our

website sometime next week so please feel free to inform your colleagues who were not able to join the call today. Thank you very much.