

May 3, 2002

Dear Friends:

### **A National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy**

May 8, 2002 has been designated the first National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. Congress joins with the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy and 60 national organizations, media outlets, businesses and youth groups to launch the first annual National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.

This very worthy campaign has been designed to raise the consciousness of all Americans and to educate them about the problem of teen pregnancy in a sensitive and non-controversial manner.

As confirmation of your support, we are asking you to participate in this campaign. You can assist by encouraging the members of your organization to seek teenagers in your community and encourage them to take the online National Day quiz on May 8.

The quiz has been designed to encourage teens to think about their sexual behavior and to come up with their own plans for avoiding pregnancy. This internet-based quiz will be posted on [www.teenpregnancy.org](http://www.teenpregnancy.org) and [www.teenpeople.com](http://www.teenpeople.com) and will present real-life scenarios and ask teens to decide how *they* would react in certain situations.

The initiative being taken by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy is welcome because, despite impressive and encouraging declines in teen pregnancy, it is sad to note that four out of ten girls in the United States will become pregnant at least once by the time they are 20 years old. Equally disturbing is the fact that our country has the highest rates of teen

pregnancy and births among comparable countries. Moreover, federal data released recently shows that teen birth rates **increased** in 11 states between 1999 and 2000. In total, one million teenage girls get pregnant every year.

We encourage you to participate in the National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. We believe it is a most worthwhile initiative to help deal with this very troubling problem.

Kind regards,

Juanita Millender-McDonald  
Democratic Chair  
Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues