



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, although teen pregnancy and birth rates in the United States are decreasing, there are still nearly 900,000 teen pregnancies each year. Four in ten girls will get pregnant at least once before the age of twenty. Put another way, each hour nearly one hundred teen girls get pregnant and fifty five give birth; and

**WHEREAS**, teen childbearing costs taxpayers at least seven billion dollars each year in direct costs associated with health care, foster care, criminal justice, and public assistance, as well as lost tax revenues; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States still has the highest rates of teen pregnancy and birth in the fully industrialized world; and

**WHEREAS**, nearly one half of all non-marital first births occur to teens and nearly 80 percent of teen births are to unmarried teens; and

**WHEREAS**, more than half of all mothers on welfare had their first child as a teenager; and

**WHEREAS**, the children of teen mothers are more likely to be born prematurely and at low birth-weight, they are more likely to do worse in school than those born to older parents, and they suffer higher rates of abuse and neglect than would occur if their mothers had delayed childbearing; and

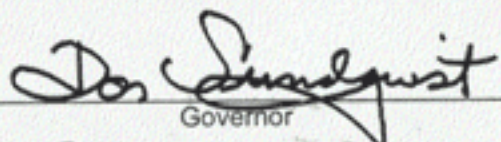
**WHEREAS**, 63% of teens who have had sexual intercourse wish they had waited longer,

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Don Sundquist, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim May 8, 2002 as

## “NATIONAL TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION DAY”

in Tennessee, and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2002.

  
Governor

  
Secretary of State

