

Jon M. Huntsman, Jr.
Governor
Proclamation

WHEREAS, teen pregnancy is a public health problem with long term consequences; and

WHEREAS, teen pregnancy and parenting are major factors in maintaining the cycle of poverty, dependence and unfulfilled human potential for many teens; and

WHEREAS, parents provide an important influence in a child's life; and

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

WHEREAS, teen pregnancy is known to result in health and social problems with far reaching economic consequences not only for the adolescent parents, their children, and their families, but also for the economic well-being of Utah; and

WHEREAS, approximately 3,900 teenaged girls become pregnant every year in Utah; and

WHEREAS, teen births account for approximately 6.4% of all births in the state; and

WHEREAS, approximately 67.7% of all teen births occurred to unmarried females; and

WHEREAS, the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy is working to prevent teen pregnancy by supporting values and stimulating actions that are consistent with a pregnancy-free adolescence; and

WHEREAS, the Utah Adolescent Health Network, a coalition of concerned community organizations and individuals, supports the National Campaign's mission and is committed to reducing the incidence of adolescent pregnancy in Utah;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jon M. Huntsman, Jr., Governor of the state of Utah, do hereby declare May 3, 2006, as

Teen Pregnancy Prevention Day

in Utah, and encourage the citizens of the state to elevate teen pregnancy prevention to the level of concern that it rightly deserves, and work to promote a reduction in teen pregnancy.