

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

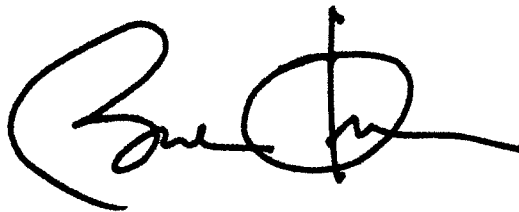
May 4, 2009

I send my warmest greetings to all who are recognizing America's National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.

Despite progress over the last decade, three out of every ten young women in the United States become pregnant. Teen pregnancies present a number of risks for both mother and child, including increased health problems; higher likelihood of neglect, poverty, and involvement in the criminal justice and child welfare systems; and greater obstacles in attaining education. Teen pregnancies also create tremendous challenges for our economy and our taxpayers, who shoulder child-rearing costs which teen mothers are ill-prepared to handle.

I have long supported efforts to prevent unintended pregnancies and my Administration supports state, community-based, and faith-based efforts to reduce teen pregnancies that are comprehensive, age-appropriate, and evidence-based. We must also remember that, as parents, mentors, and friends, we have a responsibility to be involved in the lives of our children and talk to them about teen pregnancy.

As we commemorate National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, let us recommit ourselves to 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. I wish you all the best.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Barack Obama", written in a cursive style.