

Sample National Day Resolution/Proclamation language

Whereas:

- More than 700,000 teenagers become pregnant each year;
- Despite progress over the last decade, three in ten teenagers in the United States becomes pregnant, the highest teen pregnancy rate among comparable countries;
- After fourteen years of straight decline, the national teen birth rate rose by 5 percent between 2005 and 2007;
- Latina and African-American teen girls are more likely than not to become pregnant before the age of twenty, and Native American teens have a birth rate more than double that of non-Hispanic white teens;
- Teen pregnancy is closely linked to a number of critical social issues such as poverty, educational attainment, involvement in the criminal justice and child welfare systems, and more;
- Teen childbearing costs U.S. taxpayers \$9.1 billion each year, most of which is due to costs associated with negative social and health outcomes for the children of teen parents;
- A child is nine times more likely to grow up in poverty if he or she is born to unmarried teen parents who have not yet completed high school;
- Less than half of mothers who have a child before they turn 18 ever graduate from high school, and less than two percent of mothers who have children before 18 have a college degree by age 30;
- Children of teen mothers are more likely to be born prematurely and at low birthweight;
- Children of teen parents are two times more likely to suffer abuse and neglect than would occur if their mothers had delayed childbearing;
- Fully 73 percent of adults and a plurality of teens wish that teens were getting more information about both abstinence and contraception, rather than either/or;

Now, therefore, I, _____ do hereby proclaim [May 6, 2009/the month of May] as the [National Day/Month] to Prevent Teen Pregnancy in the [city/state] of _____

OR

It is the sense of the [Congress/Legislature] that the [Nation/state] should intensify its efforts to reduce the high rates of teen pregnancies and births by declaring May 6, 2009 the National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy and by 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.