

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

**Become an Original Cosponsor of the National Day to
Prevent Teen Pregnancy Resolution**

May 4, 2009

Dear Colleague:

Please join us in sponsoring a resolution that supports the goals of the National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy which takes place on May 6th.

Unfortunately, after more than a decade of significant decline, teen pregnancy and birth rates are now on the rise. According to data released in March 2009 by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), the U.S. teen birth rate increased two years in a row, increasing 5% between 2005 and 2007. This stands in stark contrast to a 34% decrease between 1991 and 2005.

Today, three in ten women under the age of 20 will become pregnant, with Latina, African American, and Native American girls disproportionately affected. As you know, teen pregnancy can have long-term negative effects on both mother and child. Less than half of mothers who have a child before they turn 18 ever graduate from high school, for example, and children of unmarried teen parents who have not completed high school, are nine times more likely to grow up in poverty.

There are also substantial public costs associated with adolescent childbearing. According to a study by The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, teen childbearing costs taxpayers billions of dollars every year as a result of negative social and health outcomes for the children of teen parents. Teenage parents often lack the resources necessary to support a family and are more likely to utilize the welfare and foster care systems, creating challenges for their children as they grow up. In contrast, progress in reducing teen pregnancy generates savings, as adults who plan their families are less likely to need social services. In fact, the decline in the teen birth rate between 1991 and 2004 saved taxpayers \$6.7 billion in 2004 alone.

It is clear that a renewed focus on preventing teen pregnancy is needed. On May 6th, more than 175 national organizations in the health, entertainment, education, faith and media fields, and nearly 50 state and local organizations are partnering to promote and support the 8th annual National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. More than 300,000 individuals are expected to take this year's National Day Quiz, which is designed to help teens think carefully about sex and waiting, the possibility of pregnancy, and the lifelong challenges of being a parent.

We urge you to join us in supporting the National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy and raising awareness about this important issue. If you have questions or would like to cosponsor, please contact Linda Forman with Rep. Christopher Murphy at x-54476 or Olivia Kurtz with Rep. Castle at x-54165.

Sincerely,



Christopher S. Murphy
Member of Congress



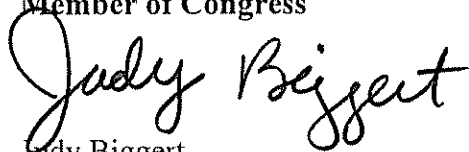
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