



National Campaign Applauds Legislation to Prevent Unintended Pregnancies, Reduce the Need for Abortion and Support Parents

(July 2009) — The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy has long believed that reducing conflict and respecting a range of deeply held opinions is essential to making progress on the important issue of reducing both teen and unintended/unplanned pregnancy. The Preventing Unintended Pregnancies, Reducing the Need for Abortion and Supporting Parents Act, authored by Representatives Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) and Tim Ryan (D-OH), is an important example of this reasonable, inclusive perspective. The bill is a comprehensive, balanced approach to reduce the need for abortion by both helping to prevent unplanned pregnancy in the first place and supporting women and families once pregnancy occurs.

“Americans of good will differ in their views about abortion, but virtually all of us see value in lessening the need for abortion and would prefer that fewer women have to confront this difficult situation,” said Sarah Brown, CEO of the National Campaign. “Although the National Campaign does not take a position on abortion, we focus intensely on primary prevention—on reducing the teen and unplanned pregnancies that lie behind the vast majority of abortions. At present, there are 3 million unplanned pregnancies in America each year and most of these occur to women who are adults, not teens. Helping couples with pregnancy planning and prevention is an essential approach to reducing abortion. We can and must do better and this bill is an important step forward.”

At a time when the teen birth rate is increasing after 14 years of decline, and when unplanned pregnancy remains a widespread problem (accounting for almost half of all pregnancies in America each year), this bill offers important solutions to reduce both teen pregnancy and unplanned pregnancy. These remedies include: investing in teen pregnancy prevention through education, incentives and demonstration grants; supporting parents in communicating with their children about sex, values and healthy relationships; funding innovative approaches to help address unplanned pregnancy among community college students, which will in turn improve student success and academic completion; and improving access to family planning services for low-income women. These important provisions are accompanied in the bill by an additional set of constructive proposals that offer assistance to pregnant women. By including such a wide range of responsible policies, this bill builds much needed common ground and merits widespread support.

Additional information:

- [Read a 1-page summary of the Bill here](#)
- [Read a 4-page summary of the Bill here](#)
- [Read statements of support for the Bill here](#)

About The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy: The National Campaign's goal is to improve the lives and future prospects of children and families and, in particular, to help ensure that children are born into stable, two-parent families who are committed to and ready for the demanding task of raising the next generation. Our specific strategy is to prevent teen pregnancy and unplanned pregnancy among single, young adults. We support a combination of responsible values and behavior by both men and women and responsible policies in both the public and private sectors.

If we are successful, child and family well-being will improve. There will be less poverty, more opportunities for young men and women to complete their education or achieve other life goals, fewer abortions, and a stronger nation.