



STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

JOHN D. CHERRY, JR.
LT. GOVERNOR

April 18, 2006

The Honorable Thomas Kean
Chair
National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy
1776 Massachusetts Ave, NW
Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Governor Kean,

Like you, I believe that unintended teen pregnancies are hurting children, youth and families across the nation. Research has shown that teen mothers are less likely to complete high school and are more likely to receive public assistance. Research also shows that the children of teen mothers are also more likely to end up in prison and are less likely to perform well in schools. This leads me to believe that teen pregnancy is not only a constraint on Michigan's budget, but it is also a stumbling block in transforming Michigan's economy. Perhaps most important, it robs too many young people of a promising future.

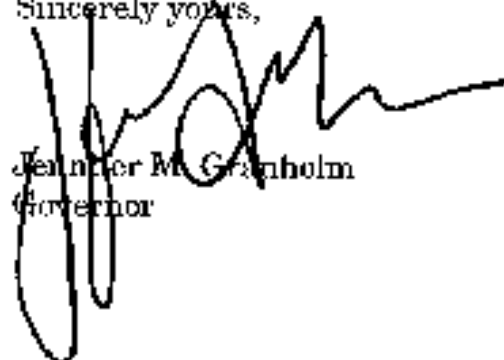
Because of the harm that unintended teen pregnancies have on Michigan residents, I am committing that within the next 10 years Michigan will reduce its teen pregnancy rate by 20 percent.

You will be pleased to learn that we have already begun addressing this goal. In July 2005, I put forth a Blueprint for Preventing Unintended Pregnancies. As a part of this blueprint, we began a pilot program called "Talk Early and Talk Often." As you know, communication at home is vital in helping young people avoid sexual relationships when they are not prepared to handle the negative consequences that may arise. This program gives middle school parents tools for holding conversations about abstinence and sexuality with their children. We do not tell the parents what to say—we tell them how to say it. We have already hosted many workshops around the state with parents and we are continuing to do outreach. You can learn more about this initiative at www.michigan.gov/miparentresources.

There are other initiatives that we are undertaking to reduce teen pregnancy and with assistance from organizations like yours, I am convinced that we will meet this bold, new goal.

Thank you for your dedication to this important cause and I look forward to confronting this issue together.

Sincerely yours,



Jennifer M. Granholm
Governor