

SAMPLE PROCLAMATION

NATIONAL TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION MONTH MAY 2017

Please feel free to use any/all of the following language to create your own resolution or proclamation for release on the National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy or at any time during the month of May (National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month).

Whereas:

- Despite historic progress over the past two decades, nearly one in four teenagers in the United States become pregnant, the highest teen pregnancy rate among comparable countries;
- Despite significant progress in all 50 states and among all racial/ethnic groups, great disparities in teen pregnancy remain;
- 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 about \$9 billion each year;
- 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;
- Eight in 10 adults view teen pregnancy as an important problem (more than half say it is a very important problem);
- Seven in 10 adults and a plurality of teens wish that teens were getting more information about both abstinence and contraception, rather than either/or;
- 61% of adults agree that there should be more community efforts to reduce teen pregnancy;

Now, therefore, I, do hereby proclaim [May 3, 2017/the month of May] as the [National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy/ National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month] in the [city/state] of [city or state name].

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 3, 2017 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.