
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 116 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY SCHWANK, HAYWOOD, FONTANA, TARTAGLIONE, SMITH,
DINNIMAN, GREENLEAF, PILEGGI, COSTA, RAFFERTY AND ALLOWAY,
MAY 6, 2015

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MAY 6, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2015 as "Teenage Pregnancy
2 Prevention Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, More than four out of five teenage pregnancies are
4 unplanned, and teens account for about one-fifth of all
5 unintended pregnancies; and

6 WHEREAS, Nearly 89% percent of these births occur outside of
7 marriage; and

8 WHEREAS, Teenage pregnancy presents the potential for serious
9 physical, emotional, intellectual and financial impacts on the
10 mother, father, baby and community; and

11 WHEREAS, Risks that often occur in teenage pregnancies
12 include anemia, toxemia, high blood pressure, placenta previa
13 and premature birth; and

14 WHEREAS, The social consequences to teenage mothers include
15 lower annual income and an increased likelihood of dropping out
16 of school; and

17 WHEREAS, Eighty percent of teenage mothers must rely on

1 public assistance at some point in their lives, and only about
2 one-third of teen mothers obtain a high school diploma; and

3 WHEREAS, Children of teenage mothers are more likely to
4 suffer health, social and emotional problems, to drop out of
5 high school and to end up in jail than children of adult
6 mothers; and

7 WHEREAS, Teenage fathers experience increased rates of
8 alcohol abuse and substance abuse, lower educational attainment
9 and reduced earning potential; and

10 WHEREAS, The annual national cost of teenage pregnancies has
11 been estimated to be as much as \$28 billion per year, taking
12 into account public assistance payments, lost tax revenue and
13 expenditures for public health care, foster care and criminal
14 justice services; and

15 WHEREAS, The teenage pregnancy rate in the United States has
16 declined continuously from a peak of 61.8 births for every 1,000
17 adolescent females in 1991 to 26.5 births in 2013, but continues
18 to remain one of the highest rates in the developed world; and

19 WHEREAS, One in six births to teenage mothers in 2013 were to
20 teenagers who already had one or more children; and

21 WHEREAS, Approximately 26% of teenage pregnancies ended in
22 abortion in 2013, and about 5% of all abortions involved teenage
23 pregnancy; and

24 WHEREAS, Numerous individual, family and community factors
25 have been linked to teen pregnancy rates, including whether the
26 teenager is involved in school and after-school activities and
27 whether the teenager has a mother who gave birth as a teenager;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, Teenagers have been shown to be less likely to get
30 someone pregnant or to become pregnant if they have:

- 1 (1) open communication with adults about using
- 2 contraception;
- 3 (2) supportive parents;
- 4 (3) healthy family dynamics;
- 5 (4) healthy relationships with peers;
- 6 (5) peers who use condoms; and
- 7 (6) accurate knowledge about sexual health, pregnancy,
- 8 sexually transmitted infections and the importance of
- 9 abstinence;

10 and

11 WHEREAS, Teenagers are more likely to become or to get
12 someone pregnant if they:

- 13 (1) live in poverty;
- 14 (2) are the child of a teenage parent;
- 15 (3) are from a single-parent home;
- 16 (4) live in a home with a lot of family conflict;
- 17 (5) have sex at a young age;
- 18 (6) use or abuse drugs and alcohol at a young age; and
- 19 (7) have low self-esteem;

20 and

21 WHEREAS, In 2011, Pennsylvania ranked 38th in the teenage
22 pregnancy rate, and, in 2008, Pennsylvania ranked 36th in the
23 teenage pregnancy rate; therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of May 2015 as
25 "Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it
26 further

27 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize "Teenage Pregnancy
28 Prevention Month" to raise awareness of the risks and
29 consequences of teenage pregnancy and increase education on
30 prevention of teenage pregnancy.