

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. CON. RES. 18

Expressing the sense of Congress that the United States should strive to prevent teen pregnancy by encouraging teenagers to view adolescence as a time for education and maturing and by educating teenagers about the negative consequences of early sexual activity; and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 11, 2003

Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself and Ms. SNOWE) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress that the United States should strive to prevent teen pregnancy by encouraging teenagers to view adolescence as a time for education and maturing and by educating teenagers about the negative consequences of early sexual activity; and for other purposes.

Whereas nearly 4 in 10 girls in the United States will become pregnant before the age of 20;

Whereas the United States has the highest rates of teen pregnancy and childbirth in the industrialized world;

Whereas, despite significant progress over the past decade, there are still nearly 900,000 teen pregnancies each year;

Whereas, on average, nearly 100 teenage girls become pregnant and 55 teenage girls give birth every hour;

Whereas childbearing by teenagers costs taxpayers at least \$7,000,000,000 each year in direct costs associated with health care, foster care, criminal justice, and public assistance;

Whereas teen pregnancy is closely linked to the social problems of welfare dependency, poverty and out-of-wedlock births, and has negative ramifications with respect to the critical social issues of overall child well-being, responsible fatherhood, and workforce development;

Whereas mothers who give birth as teenagers are less likely to complete high school and attend college, thereby unduly limiting their potential for economic self-sufficiency;

Whereas more than half of all mothers on welfare gave birth as teenagers to their first children;

Whereas 1 out of 2 unmarried mothers first gave birth as a teenager;

Whereas 80 percent of births to teenagers involve unmarried teen mothers;

Whereas almost all adults and teenagers believe that teenagers should be given a strong message from society that they should abstain from sex until they have at least completed high school; and

Whereas the children of teen mothers are more likely to be at risk for a variety of adverse health and educational outcomes than other children: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
2 *concurring),*

1 **SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL DAY TO PREVENT**
2 **TEEN PREGNANCY.**

3 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
4 gress that—

5 (1) the United States should strive to prevent
6 teen pregnancy by encouraging teens to view adoles-
7 cence as a time for education and maturing, and by
8 educating teens about the negative consequences of
9 early sexual activity; and

10 (2) the President should designate May 7,
11 2003, as “National Day To Prevent Teen Preg-
12 nancy”.

13 (b) PROCLAMATION.—Congress requests the Presi-
14 dent to issue a proclamation designating May 7, 2003, as
15 “National Day To Prevent Teen Pregnancy”.

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