



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

WHEREAS: Minnesota's overall teen birth rate has steadily declined during the past decade, with the pregnancy rate among 15-19 year-olds declining by 58.4 percent and the teen birth rate declining by 57.2 percent from 2000 to 2016; and

WHEREAS: Minnesota currently has the sixth lowest teen birth rate in the country; and

WHEREAS: Striking disparities in teen pregnancy and birth rates persist in Minnesota based on socio-economic conditions and geography; and

WHEREAS: Teen pregnancy is a public health issue that is associated with numerous immediate and lifelong economic and social impacts that affect both teen parents and their children; and

WHEREAS: Unintended pregnancies create a variety of challenges for teenage parents and their children, including a higher likelihood of premature birth and low birth weight, less stable living conditions, and increased infant mortality; and

WHEREAS: Young people are less likely to get pregnant or get someone pregnant if they have access to open communication with caring adults around sexual health; supportive parents and caregivers; accurate knowledge about abstinence and contraception, pregnancy, and sexually transmitted infections; and access to reproductive health services; and

WHEREAS: The continued reduction in teen pregnancy can only be achieved through partnerships between communities and organizations dedicated to improving the lives of young people, and sustained support of programs using best practices for young people in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS: The Minnesota Department of Health joins with the Office of Adolescent Health, the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, Advocates for Youth, and dedicated local public health agencies, youth serving organizations, volunteers, health care professionals, and communities in bringing awareness and equity to this important issue.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2018, as:

TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION MONTH

in the State of Minnesota.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 8th day of May.


GOVERNOR



SECRETARY OF STATE