



# STATE of MINNESOTA

## Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Minnesota's overall teen birth rate has been steadily declining in the past decade, decreasing from 28.5 per 1,000 in 2007 to 15.5 per 1,000 in 2014, ranking third in the nation; and
- WHEREAS: These overall reductions are remarkable and should be applauded; however, it is important to acknowledge that striking disparities in teen pregnancy and birth rates exist for those living in poverty, for racial and ethnic minorities, by geographic location, and among vulnerable populations; and
- WHEREAS: Teen pregnancy is a public health issue that is associated with numerous immediate and life-long economic and social impacts that both teen parents and their children; and
- WHEREAS: Less than 40 percent of teens who become mothers by age 18 receive their high school diploma by age 22, compared to nearly 90 percent of women who did not give birth as teenagers, and these disparities in educational attainment are directly linked to decreased economic opportunity and earnings in subsequent years; 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: Continued reduction in teen pregnancy and birth rates can only be achieved through partnerships and relationships formed between communities and organizations dedicated to improving the lives of young people; 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, as well as many dedicated local public health agencies, youth service organizations, volunteers, health care professionals, and communities in bringing awareness to this important issue.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2016, 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 29<sup>th</sup> day of April.

  
GOVERNOR

  
SECRETARY OF STATE

