

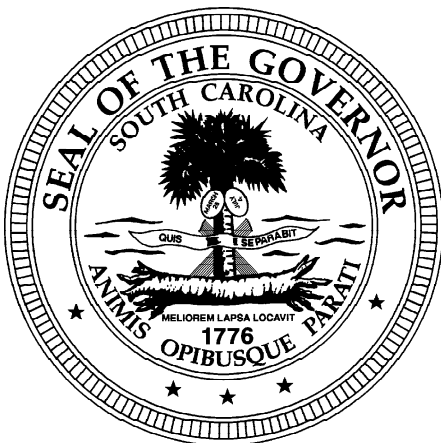
State of South Carolina
Proclamation
by
Governor Jim Hodges

- WHEREAS,** adolescent pregnancies have far-reaching consequences that adversely affect the health, education, and economic future of the young people of the Palmetto State; and
- WHEREAS,** South Carolina has the 13th highest teen birth rate in the nation, with an adolescent girl becoming pregnant approximately every 48 minutes in the Palmetto State; and
- WHEREAS,** adolescent mothers are often unable to complete their education, resulting in increased unemployment, underemployment, and dependence on public welfare; and
- WHEREAS,** the State of South Carolina has established a nationally acclaimed Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Grant Program for the purpose of helping counties involve religious institutions, businesses, media, parents, agencies, educational institutions, policymakers and health providers to prevent adolescent pregnancy; and
- WHEREAS,** the South Carolina Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy was created to advocate for and support local collaboratives and strategies that prevent adolescent pregnancy, thereby decreasing the problems associated with adolescent pregnancy in South Carolina; and
- WHEREAS,** every county in South Carolina has a teen pregnancy prevention initiative that is working to ensure our young people have every opportunity to become happy, healthy, and productive citizens with a goal of reducing the number of unintended teen pregnancies by fifty percent by 2005.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jim Hodges, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim May, 2001, as

TEEN PREGNANCY AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to reduce and prevent adolescent pregnancy throughout the Palmetto State.



Jim Hodges

Jim Hodges
Governor
State of South Carolina