

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

May 2, 2017

According to the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy (National Campaign), nearly all teen pregnancies are unplanned. Moreover, teen pregnancy is closely linked to a host of other critical social issues—poverty and income, overall child well-being, responsible fatherhood, health issues, education, child welfare, and other risky behavior. There are also substantial human and public costs associated with early and unplanned pregnancy. Accordingly, preventing teen pregnancy is not only a critical reproductive health issue, but also a key to elevating our most impoverished communities.

Since the early 1990s, teen pregnancy and birth rates in the United State have declined by 55% and 64% respectively and are now at record low levels. The teens and the adults who engaged in and supported these prevention efforts should be applauded for these reductions. Nevertheless, there is more work to be done in LA County. Girls in foster care are still more likely to become pregnant than their non-foster care peers. Youth in the juvenile halls and camps still struggle to access information and resources to prevent pregnancy. Early and unplanned pregnancy is still the norm in many communities. As County, we must continue to focus our efforts on raising awareness

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and increasing access to the information and resources that young people need to take control of their lives and achieve their full potential. Therefore, in accordance the National Campaign and the declaration that the month of May is National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month,

I, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Proclaim the month of May “Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month” in the County of Los Angeles;
2. Urge all residents, public officials and County employees, as well as community groups, schools, clubs and organizations to take action to prevent teen pregnancy in Los Angeles County; and
3. Direct the Departments of Health, Public Health, Mental Health, Children and Family Services and Probation to publicize and utilize the materials made available by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy among clients and constituents throughout the month of May. These resources are available at: <https://thenationalcampaign.org/event/national-teen-pregnancy-prevention-month>.