

## **Pregnant and Parenting Students Access to Education Act S. XXXX (Udall-NM)/H.R. 1845 (Polis-CO)**

### **Why Focus on Pregnant and Parenting Students in Education Reform?**

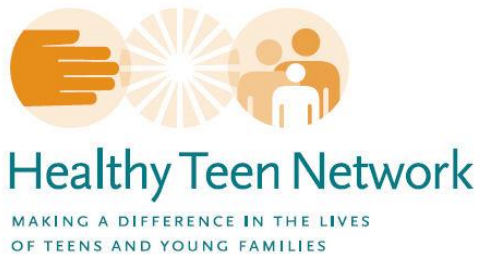
- Every year in the United States, there are approximately 750,000 teen pregnancies. Nearly 3 in 10 girls in the U.S. get pregnant at least once before age 20.
- Pregnancy and parenting responsibilities significantly increase a student's risk of dropping out of school. In a nationwide survey of dropout youth, 33% of female dropouts and almost 20% of male dropouts said that becoming a parent was a *major* factor in their decision to leave school.
- Parenting responsibilities impede students' graduation. Only 51% of women who gave birth as a teen have a high school diploma compared to 89% of women who did not have a teen birth.
- The dropout crisis experienced by this group of students has severe short- and long-term consequences for the economic success and well-being of their families and communities, as well as our nation. Ensuring the success of pregnant and parenting students is critical, not only for them but also for their children, who will be more likely to eventually drop out if their parents have done so.
- Pregnant and parenting teens face many barriers to enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school, such as discrimination, the challenge of juggling schoolwork with parenting responsibilities, and lack of access to child care, transportation, and other critical services.

### **Why Support the Pregnant and Parenting Students Access to Education Act?**

- Providing supports for pregnant and parenting students can go a long way toward improving high school graduation rates, especially because pregnant and parenting students often are highly motivated. In the survey of dropout youth mentioned above, those who left school to care for a family member or because they became a parent were more likely than any other group of dropouts to say they would have worked harder if their schools had demanded more of them and provided the necessary supports.
- Eighty-one percent of all births to teens were first births and 16% were second births. The remainder were births to teens who had two or more previous births. For teen parents already struggling to finish their education, having another child can make it that much harder.

### **What Does the Pregnant and Parenting Students Access to Education Act Do?**

- Authorizes necessary resources for states and school districts to ensure that pregnant and parenting students get the support and encouragement they need to stay in school and graduate college or career ready.
- Enables states to create a state plan for pregnant and parenting students, provide professional development and technical assistance to school districts, coordinate services with other state agencies, and disseminate information, among other activities.
- Establishes a state coordinator and school district liaisons for the education of pregnant and parenting students.
- Requires school district grantees to provide academic support services for pregnant and parenting students; assist students in gaining access to affordable child care, early childhood education, and transportation services; engage in student outreach, recruitment and retention; provide professional development for school personnel; and revise school policies and practices to remove barriers and encourage pregnant and parenting students to continue their education.



- Allows districts to provide parenting and life skills classes; case management services; pregnancy prevention strategies; referrals to primary health care, family planning, mental health, substance abuse, housing assistance, legal aid, mentoring, or other supportive services needed by the student; as well as to address school climate issues, including illegal discrimination against and stigmatization of pregnant and parenting students.
- Collects and reports data on pregnant and parenting students annually, including educational outcomes, and requires a rigorous evaluation of the program.

### **Points of Contact**

- **Healthy Teen Network** - Bob Reeg, bob@HealthyTeenNetwork.org, 202.265.7271
- **National Women's Law Center** - Lara Kaufmann, lkaufmann@nwlc.org, 202.588.5180

### **Who Supports the Pregnant and Parenting Student Access to Education Act?**

#### **National Organizations**

1. 9to5
2. ACCEPT
3. Advocates for Youth
4. African American Ministers in Action
5. Alliance for Excellent Education
6. American Association of University Women (AAUW)
7. American Civil Liberties Union
8. American Federation of Teachers
9. American Medical Student Association
10. American Psychological Association
11. American Public Health Association
12. American Sexual Health Association
13. Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)
14. Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum
15. Association for Middle Level Education (formerly National Middle School Association)
16. Association of Reproductive Health Professionals
17. Break the Cycle
18. Catholics for Choice
19. CLASP (Center for Law and Social Policy)
20. Children's Advocacy Institute
21. Community Action Partnership
22. Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet
23. Dream Enterprises Health Education Services
24. Equal Rights Advocates
25. Faith for Change
26. Feminist Majority Foundation
27. First Focus Campaign for Children
28. Friends Committee on National Legislation
29. Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network
30. Global Justice Institute
31. Healthy Teen Network

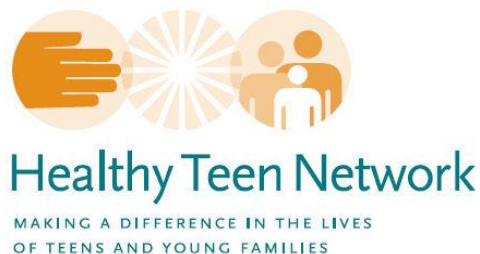


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32. Human Rights Project for Girls
33. League of United Latin American Citizens
34. Methodist Federation for Social Action
35. Metropolitan Community Churches
36. Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund
37. Ms. Foundation for Women
38. NAACP
39. NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund Inc.
40. National Association for Bilingual Education
41. National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
42. National Association of Counsel for Children
43. National Association of Secondary School Principals
44. National Center for Law and Economic Justice
45. National Conference of Puerto Rican Women, Inc
46. National Council of Jewish Women
47. National Council of La Raza
48. National Crittenton Foundation
49. National Education Association
50. National Indian Education Association
51. National Network for Youth
52. National Organization for Women
53. National Urban League
54. National Women's Conference Committee
55. National Women's Law Center
56. Our Bodies Ourselves
57. People For the American Way
58. Physicians for Reproductive Health
59. Planned Parenthood Federation of America
60. Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc.
61. Public Justice Center
62. Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
63. Religious Institute
64. RESULTS
65. Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
66. School Social Work Association of America
67. Sexuality Education and Information Council of the United States
68. Sisters of Charity Nazareth Central Leadership
69. Smart Stop Learning Center
70. Southeast Asia Resource Action Center
71. Teen Success
72. The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy
73. The United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society
74. Unitarian Universalist Association
75. Women of Reform Judaism
76. Women's Law Project
77. Women's Sports Foundation
78. World Knowledge Bank
79. YWCA USA



## 80. Youth Activism Project

### State and Local Organizations

81. Arizona Collaborative for Adolescent Health
82. California Center for Rural Policy
83. California WIC Association
84. Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth (CA)
85. National Council of Jewish Women-California
86. TeenNow California
87. Brighter Beginnings (Oakland, CA)
88. Clinica Sierra Vista (Bakersfield, CA)
89. Dependency Legal Group of San Diego (CA)
90. Great Beginnings for Black Babies (Inglewood, CA)
91. Hillsides (Los Angeles, CA)
92. Housing Rights Committee of San Francisco (CA)
93. Los Angeles Community Legal Center and Educational (CA)
94. New Voices Are Rising Project (Oakland, CA)
95. Restorative Schools Vision Project (Sacramento, CA)
96. Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment (Oakland, CA)
97. San Francisco Court Appointed Special Advocates Program (CA)
98. Watts/Century Latino Organization (Los Angeles, CA)
99. Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights
100. Colorado Youth Matter
101. Florence Crittenton Services of Colorado
102. Advocacy Denver (CO)
103. Bridgeport Child Advocacy Coalition (CT)
104. Mansfield Housing Authority (CT)
105. DC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy
106. RESULTS DC
107. Florida Association for Infant Mental Health
108. Center for Independent Living of South Florida, Inc.
109. Healthy Teens Coalition of Manatee County (Manatee County, FL)
110. Georgia Women for a Change
111. Social Justice Guild of the First Existentialist Congregation of Atlanta (GA)
112. Hawaii Youth Services Network
113. Centro de Comunidad y Justicia (Boise, ID)
114. Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health
115. Alternatives (Chicago, IL)
116. Arab American Family Services (Bridgeview, IL)
117. Civitas ChildLaw Center, Loyola University Chicago School of Law (IL)
118. Chicago Child Care Society (IL)
119. Marillac House (Chicago, IL)
120. Women Employed (Chicago, IL)
121. Child and Family Policy Center (IA)
122. EyesOpenIowa
123. Crisis Center & Women's Shelter (Ottumwa, IA)
124. Southwest Iowa Latino Resource Center
125. GWIA (God's Will In Action) (Kansas City area, KS and MO)



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126. WISDOM (Well-Instructed Students Devoted to Our Messiah) (Kansas City, KS and MO)
127. KAPCHS (Kingsway Academy Private Christian High School) (Kansas City, KS and MO)
128. CSH (Career Search Hotline) (Kansas City, KS and MO)
129. CPIBT (Committee to Preserve Independence Bus Transit) (Kansas City, KS and MO)
130. CACTF (Citizens Alternative Crime Task Force) (Kansas City, KS and MO)
131. SSL (South Sea Linden) (Kansas City, KS and MO)
132. PAL (Platform for Affordable Livability) (Kansas City, KS and MO)
133. Kentucky Youth Advocates
134. Louisiana Housing Alliance
135. Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore (MD)
136. PeterCares House (Greenbelt, MD)
137. Massachusetts Alliance on Teen Pregnancy
138. Michigan's Children
139. Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual Health
140. Work Services Inc (Jackson, MI)
141. Minnesota AIDS Project
142. Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center
143. Litchfield Public Schools #465 Early Childhood Programs (MN)
144. Nollie Jenkins Family Life Center, Inc. (Lexington, MS)
145. Center for People in Need (Lincoln, NE)
146. Sisters of Mercy West Midwest Justice Team (NE)
147. Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada
148. Education Law Center (NJ)
149. Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (NJ)
150. New Mexico Alliance for School Based Health Care
151. New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition
152. New Mexico Voices for Children
153. Southwest Women's Law Center (NM)
154. Young Women United (NM)
155. Honor Our Pueblo Existence (H.O.P.E.) (Espanola, NM)
156. Brooklyn Young Mothers Collective (NY)
157. Inwood House (New York, NY)
158. NMPP/Community Health Worker Program (New York, NY)
159. Student Advocacy (Westchester and Putnam Counties, NY)
160. Action for Children North Carolina
161. Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Campaign of North Carolina
162. YWCA Greensboro (NC)
163. Ohio Chapter of the National Organization for Women
164. Ohio NOW and Education and Legal Fund
165. Democratic Socialists of Central Ohio
166. Northeast Ohio Legal Services
167. AFT-Oklahoma
168. SMART (Single Mother Academic Resource Team) (OK)
169. Pennsylvania Council of Churches
170. Allegheny Valley Association of Churches (Natrona Heights, PA)
171. Division of Adolescent Medicine, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC (PA)
172. International Institute for Restorative Practices (Bethlehem, PA)
173. Juvenile Law Center (Philadelphia, PA)





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- 174. Maternity Care Coalition (Philadelphia, PA)
- 175. SEIU Local 668 (Harrisburg, PA)
- 176. Woonsocket Head Start Child Development Association (RI)
- 177. South Carolina Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy
- 178. Malcolm X Center for Self Determination (Greenville, SC)
- 179. Healthy and Free Tennessee
- 180. Cornucopia Network/NJ/TN Chapter, Caney Fork Headwaters Association, Cumberland Countians for Peace & Justice Network for Environmental & Economic Responsibility Of United Church of Christ (Pleasant Hill, TN)
- 181. CHOICES (Memphis, TN)
- 182. Memphis Teen Vision (TN)
- 183. Texans Care for Children
- 184. Texas Association Concerned with School-Age Parenthood
- 185. Education Equals Making Community Connections (Plantersville, TX)
- 186. North Dallas Chapter of National Organization for Women (Plano/Dallas, TX)
- 187. Voices for Vermont's Children
- 188. Virginia Organizing
- 189. Lewis County Family Resource Network (WV)