**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO AFFIRM THE DEDICATION OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA SENATE TO THE FUTURE SUCCESS OF THE STATE’S YOUNG PEOPLE AND ITS DEDICATION TO THE PREVENTION OF TEEN PREGNANCY, AND TO DECLARE THE MONTH OF MAY 2014 AS “TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION MONTH” IN THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, teen pregnancies have far‑reaching consequences that adversely affect the health, education, and economic future of South Carolina’s young people; and

Whereas, in 2012, more than five and one-half thousand young girls, ages fifteen to nineteen, gave birth in our State; and

Whereas, between 1992 and 2012, teen birth rates in South Carolina decreased by forty‑seven percent; and

Whereas, teen birth rates in South Carolina decreased by seven percent between 2011 and 2012, the lowest teen birth rate for girls ages fifteen to nineteen ever recorded in South Carolina; and

Whereas, the progress in teen birth‑rate reductions that save South Carolina taxpayers an estimated $127 million each year should not suggest decreases in investment and commitment to the issue; and

Whereas, Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month is an opportunity for parents, teens, educators, program providers, faith‑based organizations, local elected leaders, and statewide policymakers to work together to reduce and prevent teen pregnancy in South Carolina. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That Senate of the State of South Carolina, by this resolution, affirms its dedication to the future success of the state’s young people and its dedication to the prevention of teen pregnancy, and declares the month of May 2014 as “Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month” in the State of South Carolina.

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