



STATE OF NEW MEXICO EXECUTIVE OFFICE SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, NEW MEXICO HAS THE 4<sup>TH</sup> HIGHEST TEEN BIRTH RATE IN THE NATION, WITH ABOUT 4,600 BIRTHS TO TEENS EACH YEAR; AND

**WHEREAS**, 4 IN 10 GIRLS BECOME PREGNANT AT LEAST ONCE BY AGE 20; AND

**WHEREAS**, 1/3 OF ALL NEW MEXICO FAMILIES BEGIN WHILE THE MOTHER IS A TEEN; AND

**WHEREAS**, TEEN PREGNANCY SEVERELY BURDENS OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM, MEDICAL AND SOCIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS, CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND TAXPAYERS; AND

**WHEREAS**, NEW MEXICO WOULD SAVE AT LEAST \$35 MILLION PER YEAR IF EVERY TEEN BIRTH WERE DELAYED UNTIL THE MOTHER WAS IN HER EARLY 20'S; AND

**WHEREAS**, TEEN PREGNANCY IS A CORE ISSUE THAT IF REDUCED WILL ALSO REDUCE A MULTITUDE OF OTHER SERIOUS SOCIAL PROBLEMS; AND

**WHEREAS**, PREVENTING TEEN PREGNANCY IS AN EFFECTIVE WAY TO IMPROVE OVERALL CHILD AND FAMILY-WELL BEING AND, IN PARTICULAR, TO REDUCE CHILD POVERTY AND OUT-OF-WEDLOCK CHILDBEARING; AND

**WHEREAS**, REDUCING TEEN PREGNANCY WILL STRENGTHEN NEW MEXICO'S CHILDREN, FAMILIES, COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMY; AND

**WHEREAS**, IN 2000, THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE NEW MEXICO TEEN PREGNANCY COALITION CHALLENGED THE PEOPLE OF NEW MEXICO TO REDUCE TEEN BIRTHS BY 20% BY 2005; AND

**WHEREAS**, ON MAY 7<sup>TH</sup>, NEW MEXICO TEENS ARE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE PART IN A NATIONAL ONLINE QUIZ SPONSORED BY THE NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT TEEN PREGNANCY;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, BILL RICHARDSON, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THE MONTH OF MAY, 2003 AS**

***"TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION MONTH"***

THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO.

ATTEST:

REBECCA VIGIL-GIRON  
SECRETARY OF STATE

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
THE 1<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF MAY 2003

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE GREAT  
SEAL OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

BILL RICHARDSON  
GOVERNOR

