**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO DECLARE THE MONTH OF MAY 2015 AS “TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION MONTH” THROUGHOUT THE STATE AND TO ENCOURAGE ALL SOUTH CAROLINIANS TO WORK TOGETHER TO REDUCE AND PREVENT TEEN PREGNANCY FOR THE FUTURE SUCCESS OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.

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

Whereas, teen pregnancy in the United States is at a historic low. In South Carolina, there has been a fifty‑four percent decline in the teen birth rate since 1992; and

Whereas, although the State has made great strides in reducing this statistic, there is still more work to do. Just under five thousand teens gave birth in 2013. Twenty‑five percent of those who gave birth were already parents, and South Carolina has the twelfth highest teen birth rate in the United States; and

Whereas, the progress South Carolina has made in reducing the incidence of teen childbearing saves taxpayers an estimated $172 million each year; and

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

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the Senate, by this resolution, declare the month of May 2015 as “Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month” throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to reduce and prevent teen pregnancy for the future success of our young people.

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