

1 **State of Arkansas**
2 **78th General Assembly**
3 **Regular Session, 1991**
4 **By: Representatives Flanagin, Pollan, Goodwin, McGee and Jones**

H.C.R.

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7 **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

8 REQUESTING THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH TO
9 DEVELOP INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE
10 ARKANSAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO DISSEMINATE TO ARKANSAS YOUTH
11 CONCERNING RECENTLY ENACTED LEGISLATION AND AGENCY
12 REGULATIONS ON THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTHOOD.

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15 WHEREAS, Arkansas ranks second in the nation in the percentage of births
16 to teenagers; and

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18 WHEREAS, over fifty percent (50%) of the teenage parents never finish
19 high school; and

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21 WHEREAS, babies born to teenage mothers are more likely to be premature
22 and of low birth rate; and

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24 WHEREAS, Arkansas spends eighty-two million dollars (\$82,000,000) on
25 AFDC, Food Stamps and Medicaid for teenage mothers and their children; and

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27 WHEREAS, it is essential that Arkansas break this cycle of fourth
28 generation teen pregnancies and reduce the level of public dependency; and

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30 WHEREAS, the Joint Committee on Children and Youth has instructed its
31 staff to research recently enacted legislation making birth parents more

32 responsible for their children; and

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34 WHEREAS, the Department of Health and the Department of Human Services
35 have access to relevant rules and regulations; and

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WHEREAS, the members of the General Assembly have a unique opportunity to address various school groups and other youth organizations; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the State of Arkansas that all youth be made aware that the birth of a child places a responsibility on the birth parents regardless of age;

NOW THEREFORE,
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SEVENTY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Joint Committee on Children and Youth shall develop a package of material for dissemination to the General Assembly with the assistance of the Department of Human Services and the Department of Health and the public information officers of the House of Representatives and Senate.

