

1 **State of Arkansas**
2 **79th General Assembly**
3 **Regular Session, 1993**
4 **By: Senator Bookout**

S.R.

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7 **SENATE RESOLUTION**

8 REQUESTING THE JOINT INTERIM COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH,
9 WELFARE AND LABOR TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF PROGRAMS DESIGNED
10 TO REDUCE TEEN PREGNANCY, INFANT MORTALITY, THE NUMBER OF
11 CHILDREN WHO ARE NOT IMMUNIZED AND/OR THE NUMBER OF DRUG-
12 ADDICTED BABIES IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHICH PROGRAMS HAVE
13 ENJOYED THE MOST SUCCESS.

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15 **Subtitle**

16 REQUESTING THE PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE AND LABOR COMMITTEE
17 TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF EFFORTS TO REDUCE INFANT MORTALITY,
18 TEEN PREGNANCY AND OTHER RELATED PROBLEMS.

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20 WHEREAS, the teen pregnancy rate in Arkansas is the second highest in
21 the United States; and

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23 WHEREAS, the greatest increase in children having babies is seen in
24 children between the ages of ten (10) and fifteen (15); and

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26 WHEREAS, there are a number of programs in the state addressing teen
27 pregnancy prevention, including Males Place Clinic, Project Y.E.S., Parents as
28 Sex Educators, Project IMAGE, "Say Yes" Project, Partners Combatting
29 Adolescent Pregnancy; and

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31 WHEREAS, in Arkansas in 1991, the following public expenditures were
32 related to adolescent child bearing, \$31,156,000 was spent on benefits under
33 the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program, \$23,892,00 was spent on
34 Food Stamps and \$42,839,000 was spent on Medicaid, for a total of \$97,887,000;
35 and

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WHEREAS, teen mothers are most likely to have low birth weight babies;
and

WHEREAS, the number of low birth weight babies in Arkansas is increasing
and is significantly higher than the national average; and

WHEREAS, one half (1/2) of all deaths among infants in their first year
of life are found among babies with low birth weights, and those low birth
weight babies who survive often have lifelong illnesses or handicaps; and

WHEREAS, the infant mortality rate in Arkansas is nine and three-tenths
(9.3) deaths per one thousand (1,000) live births; and

WHEREAS, only forty-three percent (43%) of two (2) year old children in
Arkansas are completely immunized; and

WHEREAS, the number of babies born addicted to drugs is rising
dramatically, and babies born to women who have abused drugs during their
pregnancy often have lifelong disabilities; and

WHEREAS, babies born to crack mothers are now entering school and have
many problems that make it difficult for them to function in traditional
classrooms; and

WHEREAS, there are numerous programs around the country addressing the
above-mentioned issues that the committee should review in order to determine
if some of these programs could be successful in Arkansas,

NOW THEREFORE,
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE SEVENTY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the Joint Interim Committee on Public Health, Welfare and Labor is
requested to conduct a study of efforts to reduce teen pregnancy, infant

1 mortality, the number of children who are not fully immunized and the number
2 of drug-addicted babies to determine which efforts are the most effective and
3 to make recommendations to ensure that the most effective programs are used.

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