

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2013-169

2
3 REQUESTING THE INTERIM HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE,
4 AND LABOR STUDY TEENAGE PREGNANCY PREVENTION.
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6 WHEREAS, although the teenage birth rates in the country have decreased
7 in the last two decades, the number of births to teenage parents has remained
8 high in Arkansas; and
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10 WHEREAS, there were five thousand three hundred and five (5,305)
11 births to teenage parents in Arkansas in 2010; and
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13 WHEREAS, the teenage birth rate in Arkansas in 2010 was fifty-two and
14 one-half (52 1/2) births per one thousand (1,000) teenage female fifteen to
15 nineteen (15-19) years of age; and
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17 WHEREAS, repeat teenage birth, defined as two (2) or more pregnancies
18 before twenty (20) years of age ending in a live birth, can limit the
19 mother's ability to finish her education or get a job; and
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21 WHEREAS, the percentage of repeat teenage births in Arkansas of females
22 under twenty (20) years of age was twenty percent (20%) in 2010; and
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24 WHEREAS, teenage pregnancy is a problem that has tremendous financial
25 and human consequences for present and future generations; and
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27 WHEREAS, teenage pregnancy prevention programs can serve as the basis
28 for welfare reform efforts by reducing the number of persons in need of
29 public assistance; and
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31 WHEREAS, for numerous reasons, the State of Arkansas should strongly
32 support efforts both societal and financial to reduce the teenage pregnancy
33 rate,
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35 NOW THEREFORE,

1 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE INTERIM HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND
2 LABOR OF THE EIGHTY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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4 THAT the interim House Committee On Public Health, Welfare, and Labor
5 study different ideas and methods designed to reduce teenage pregnancy,
6 including strategies, alternative programs, or initiatives currently used by
7 other states for teenage pregnancy prevention.

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9 BE IT FURTHER PROPOSED BY THE INTERIM HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH,
10 WELFARE, AND LABOR OF THE EIGHTY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF
11 ARKANSAS:

12 THAT upon request, the Department of Health and the Department of Human
13 Services shall aid the interim House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and
14 Labor in this study.

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17 Respectfully submitted,

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21 Representative Deborah Ferguson
22 District 51

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25 By: JMB/JMB
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