

American Legion Auxiliary
New Mexico Girls State
Memorial Instruction Sheet



Principal Author: Karina Gonzalez

Memorial No: _39

Committee: Community

Status:

Passed by: Committee House Senate

Tabled by: Committee House Senate

Other: _____

Simple Title of Memorial: Teen Pregnancy Prevention Day

1 MEMORIAL

2 **70TH SESSION – AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NEW MEXICO GIRLS STATE – 2017**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4

5

6 A MEMORIAL

7 FULL TITLE: To inform all girls and boys (ages 14-19) about the struggles and
8 consequences of an unintended pregnancy during [school years; declaring December 14th](#)
9 [annually "Teen Pregnancy Prevention Day"](#).

10

11 WHEREAS, Currently, the state of New Mexico is 50th in teen
12 pregnancy rate, and 46th in teen birth rates. Moreover, the rate
13 for teen pregnancies is 72 per 1,000 teen girls. (ages 14-19);
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Teen parenthood is noted to be more common with teens
16 who live in more rural areas– and of New Mexico’s 33
17 counties, 26 are designated as rural, thus causing the high
18 statistic rates; and

19 WHEREAS, In the United States only 40 percent of teen mothers
20 finish high school. Fewer than 2 percent finish college by age
21 30; and

22 WHEREAS, Unintended pregnancies during school years affect the
23 teenager's education and financial futures. Studies show many

1 girls drop out of school to attend to their children and join the
2 work force, however without a high school diploma, there are not
3 many work opportunities available, resulting in the women living
4 in poverty; and

5 WHEREAS, Teen fathers tend to finish fewer years of school than
6 men who become fathers later in life. They are also less likely
7 to have a job; and

8 WHEREAS, Health risks for the mother and the child also accompany
9 teen pregnancy, including a low level of iron in the blood
10 (anemia), high blood pressure and preterm labor, especially for
11 those who do not receive prenatal care; and

12 WHEREAS, In many cases the health issues result with stillbirths
13 or childbirth complications ending in death; and

14 WHEREAS, Because of the young age of the mothers, their bodies
15 are not fully developed and can cause the health risks.

16 WHEREAS, Some adolescences get an abortion for a different
17 outcome or solution, because it is less costly for the parents;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Teen parenthood cost New Mexico taxpayers at least \$103
20 million in 2010, and continues to grow annually;

21
22
23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE
24 LEGISLATURE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NEW MEXICO GIRLS STATE
25

26 that the school districts and department of health unite and help with this grand issue.
27 Both need to hold an event and educated the youth of the consequences and dangers of Teen
28 Pregnancy. Giving them the choice and resources for contraception, will aid with the
29 movement. The Teen Pregnancy Prevention Day will be the day to help inform the youth
30 and explain their future options.

31
32
33
34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The New Mexico Department of Health and the
35 Department of Education enact this memorial proficiently and annually. To provide a
36 presentation and instructor to educated and speak to the youth at local high schools. Also,
37 have the school district and school board put the memorial into their agendas and lesson
38 plans.
39