



Healthy Youth. Bright Futures. Strong Communities.

# WHAT **POLICYMAKERS** CAN DO

**Teen pregnancy is a complex problem that requires a complex solution.** Since 1994, our mission at the South Carolina Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy (SC Campaign) has been to improve the health and economic well-being of individuals, communities and the state of South Carolina by preventing teen pregnancy. To achieve our mission, we work with a variety of organizations—public, private, school and community based—in all regions of the state. It takes all of us—parents, teachers, policymakers, faith leaders, healthcare providers and the business community—to make a difference. As a policymaker, you play a key role in South Carolina. Achieving reductions in teen pregnancy rates requires a sustained commitment and investment in young people. In order to accomplish this goal, please consider the following actions→





# HOW YOU CAN HELP



**INVEST IN TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION** efforts that are comprehensive and research-proven.



- South Carolina's taxpayers spent a total of \$4.5 billion on teen births between 1991 and 2010.
- 9 in 10 voters in South Carolina believe sex education in public schools should contain information that emphasizes abstinence and teaches about contraception.
- 83% of South Carolinians support comprehensive sex education. Making sure all school districts comply with the state Comprehensive Health Education Act will empower young people to make smarter sexual health decisions.

**INCLUDE TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION AS A STRATEGY** to improve academic success and health of our state.



- Nearly 1 in 3 teen girls who have dropped out of high school cite early pregnancy or parenthood as a key reason.
- Encouraging teens to delay childbearing decreases the chances of low birth weight babies and infant mortality.
- Teen pregnancy is linked to many social disparities in our state such as poverty, child well-being, and unemployment.

**RECOGNIZE ORGANIZATIONS IN YOUR COMMUNITY** that provide opportunities for young people to receive support from their parents and caring adults.



- Adults and teens both agree it would be easier to postpone sexual activity and pregnancy if they were able to talk openly with their parents.
- Invest in systems that protect youth at elevated risks, such as the Department of Juvenile Justice and Foster Care.
- Support organizations in your community that provide opportunities for adults to mentor young people.

**Get Connected. Stay Informed. Make a Difference.**



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