

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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OFFICE OF
THE GOVERNOR

NO. 7FY 86/87
DATE November 25, 1986

TO ESTABLISH A CABINET LEVEL COUNCIL TO
IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON THE
PREVENTION OF ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY AND PARENTING

WHEREAS, teen pregnancy is a serious health, social and economic problem in Maine resulting in more than sixty million dollars per year required to respond to the problem; and

WHEREAS, 3000 Maine teenagers become pregnant each year, 2000 become teenage mothers and the majority of them are single mothers; and

WHEREAS, although the birthrate for all adolescents has declined steadily since 1960, the birthrate for Maine teens aged 16 and younger has NOT decreased; and

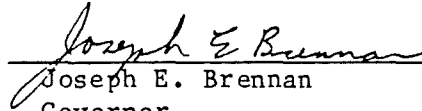
WHEREAS, while some teens are able to meet the challenge of single parenting, for most teens being a single mother becomes an emotional, social and economic hardship which can begin a lifelong cycle of poverty; and

WHEREAS, adolescent pregnancy is the major cause for teenage women dropping out of school and teenage fathers are 40% less likely to graduate from high school than those who have children later; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force on the Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy and Parenting has studied these problems and has made comprehensive recommendations for the prevention of adolescent pregnancy and the reduction of the adverse consequences of adolescent parenting;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH E. BRENNAN, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby order that a Cabinet Level Council be established to include the Commissioners of Educational and Cultural Services, Labor, Mental Health and Mental Retardation, and the Commissioner of the Department of Human Services, who will serve as Chair.

It is further ordered that the Council address the implementation of strategies for the prevention of adolescent pregnancy in Maine and strategies to reduce the adverse consequences of adolescent parenting as recommended by the Task Force. Each Department shall recognize its role in responding to adolescent pregnancy issues and develop priorities to effectively respond to the problem. The Council shall report back to me by December 19, 1986, and to this Office annually, thereafter, at the beginning of the State fiscal year.



Joseph E. Brennan
Governor