

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 27 am**

**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**

**NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION**

**BY REPRESENTATIVE BUNDE**

**Amended: 3/11/96**

**Introduced: 2/12/96**

**A RESOLUTION**

**1 Relating to prevention of teenage pregnancy by implementation of the Sugar Baby**  
**2 project.**

**3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

**4 WHEREAS** the teenage pregnancy rate in Alaska is one of the highest in the nation;  
**5 and**

**6 WHEREAS** 75 percent of teenage pregnancies are unplanned; and

**7 WHEREAS** teenage childbearing affects the family unit economically, socially, and  
**8 developmentally; and**

**9 WHEREAS,** even with adequate prenatal care, children of teenage mothers have a  
**10 high incidence of low birth weight, behavioral disturbances, depression, developmental delays,**  
**11 and mild mental retardation; and**

**12 WHEREAS** children born to teenage parents are more likely to spend their lives in  
**13 poverty, belong to a single parent family, and are four to five times more likely to live in a**  
**14 foster home; and**

**15 WHEREAS** the average cost to the state for Medicaid and Aid to Families with  
**16 Dependent Children benefits for an unplanned pregnancy for one year is over \$30,000; and**

1           **WHEREAS** teenage childbearing presents a barrier to the young parent in  
2 accomplishing education and life goals and developing marketable skills; and

3           **WHEREAS** teenage childbearing affects the business community economically through  
4 loss of human potential and financial resources of teenage parents who have not developed  
5 the knowledge, skills, or motivation to become productive workers; and

6           **WHEREAS** the children of teenage parents tend to become parents themselves at an  
7 early age; and

8           **WHEREAS** prevention of unplanned teenage pregnancies is one solution to a very  
9 serious social dilemma facing the nation; and

10          **WHEREAS** prevention of unplanned teenage pregnancies requires education of  
11 teenagers in the fiscal and social realities of parenthood; and

12          **WHEREAS** one educational tool that has proven effective in educating teenagers on  
13 the actual effects of unplanned pregnancies is the Sugar Baby project; and

14          **WHEREAS** the Sugar Baby project provides teenagers with the opportunity to  
15 experience some of the realities and responsibilities involved in being a parent by spending  
16 five days performing the duties that a parent would be required to perform;

17          **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports the continued use of  
18 the Sugar Baby project in school districts throughout Alaska as a method to promote  
19 abstinence and help prevent unplanned teenage pregnancies.