

STATE OF ALASKA  
THE LEGISLATURE

1996

Source  
HCR 27 am

Legislative  
Resolve No.  
56



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

---

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**WHEREAS** teenage childbearing affects the business community economically through

loss of human potential and financial resources of teenage parents who have not developed the knowledge, skills, or motivation to become productive workers; and

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

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

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

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

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

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