

# PROCLAMATION

## TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION MONTH May 1998

**Whereas**, teen pregnancy continues to be of great concern in Alaska; and

**Whereas**, children born to teens suffer a higher infant mortality rate than average. Many teen mothers do not receive adequate prenatal care, and they are more likely to use tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs and thus their babies are more likely to be low birth weight and at greater health risk; and

**Whereas**, teen parents generally do not finish high school and are more likely to be single parents, poor, unskilled, and underemployed. In addition, children born to teen mothers are more likely to grow up without a father; and

**Whereas**, the consequences of teen pregnancy impose far reaching and long-term emotional, educational, and economic consequences on teen parents and their children because they are more likely to become part of the poverty cycle; and

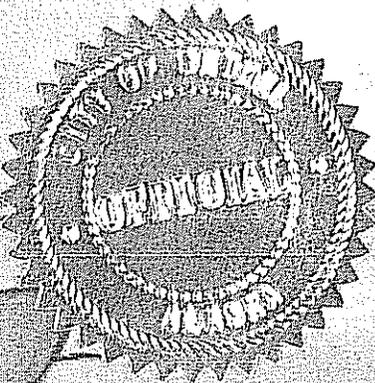
**Whereas**, the State of Alaska is committed to involving youth, churches, business, media, parents, agencies, educational institutions, policy makers, and health providers in helping to prevent teen pregnancy; and

**Whereas**, a coalition of community service providers and interest individuals in Alaska have come together to increase general awareness of the risks and cost of teen pregnancy and to advocate and support programs and strategies that prevent pregnancy and decrease associated problems; and

**Now, therefore**, I, Agnes L. Phillips, Mayor of the City of Bethel, Alaska, do hereby proclaim the month of May 1998 as:

## TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION MONTH

in Alaska and urge all Alaskans to take part in the effort to increase awareness and commitment to the prevention of teen pregnancy in Alaska.



*Agnes L. Phillips*  
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Agnes L. Phillips, Mayor

ATTEST:

*Laurie J. Walters*  
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Laurie J. Walters, Acting City Clerk