



## **Proclamation**

*Board of County Commissioners  
Manatee County, Florida*

**WHEREAS**, the Healthy Teens Coalition of Manatee County and its Teen Health Educators actively advocate for a continued comprehensive approach to addressing teen pregnancy prevention and strive for children in our community to be born into - and grow up in - a healthy, safe, and nurturing environment; and

**WHEREAS**, Healthy Teens Coalition's Teen Health Educator Program has been lauded nationally and throughout the State of Florida as a model program for successful reduction of teen pregnancy and associated high-risk behaviors in teens; and

**WHEREAS**, Manatee County's ranking for teen births among youth age 15 through 19 has improved over the last seven years from 11th highest to 35th out of 67 counties; and

**WHEREAS**, much work remains throughout our community, particularly with dramatically rising rates of sexually transmitted illnesses in Manatee County youth, age 15 through 25, and significantly higher repeat teen birth rates among Manatee County teens aged 15 through 19 than the State average; and

**WHEREAS**, the Manatee Health Care Alliance has targeted teen pregnancy reduction as a priority strategic health issue for the 2015-2020 Community Health Improvement Plan and applauds the current progress; and

**WHEREAS**, access to health care, including school-based health services, is a critical issue for at-risk youth in order to continue the positive gains made in reducing teen pregnancy and associated healthy risks; and

**WHEREAS**, the vicious cycle of life-long poverty and repeat teen pregnancy costs Manatee County taxpayers over \$11.1 million annually; and

**WHEREAS**, Healthy Teens Coalition, in partnership with community agencies and the School District, provides comprehensive, evidence based programs and services to vulnerable teens; and

**WHEREAS**, unyielding support for comprehensive teen pregnancy prevention must continue in Manatee County in order to maintain positive gains made towards the common goal of reducing teen pregnancy; and

**WHEREAS**, nationally, the month of May is the focal point for teen pregnancy prevention activities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, that May 2018 shall be known, designated, and set aside as

### **TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION MONTH**

in Manatee County, Florida.

**ADOPTED** with a quorum present and voting this 8<sup>th</sup> day of May 2018.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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*Priscilla Trace, Chairman*

**ATTEST:** *Angelina Colonnese*  
*Clerk of the Circuit Court*

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