



Petition to Save TSO/ MIP/ I&E Programs

Background: The Governor **APPROVED** the new budget 85 days late in which, without warning, **HE** eliminated two key teen pregnancy prevention programs, the TeenSMART Outreach Program and the Male Involvement Program while drastically reducing the Information and Education Program

Community impact: These programs are an important part of our community and have provided teens with leadership opportunities, positive activities, role models and healthy peer groups. The programs have taught young people how to avoid pregnancy and STIs, and have encouraged responsible decision-making. Without these programs, thousands of youth will not have access to vital health information and resources that increase access to reproductive health services which will lead to an increase in the rate of Teen Pregnancy.

Petition statement: We believe that lawmakers should work harder to find a way to save these programs, including new ways to make money. Funding these programs actually saves the government money, because for every \$1 spent on prevention, the state saves \$4 in costs from teen births. We urge you to immediately reinstate funding for these programs. Please reconsider the proposed cuts and let your constituents know that you care about the youth of your community—the future of all of us.

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