



## *California Latinas for Reproductive Justice*

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### **FOR IMMEDIATELY RELEASE:**

### **Re: The California Legislature Establishes “California Young Parents Day” September 2, 2016**

Sacramento, California (September 2, 2016) --- The California Legislature ended its 2016 session with both houses overwhelmingly approving a resolution that impacts how pregnant and parenting youth are treated and perceived in California.

Assembly Concurrent Resolution (ACR) 201-The California Young Parents Resolution sponsored by California Latinas for Reproductive Justice and authored by Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez (D-80) acknowledges the extensive health, educational and systemic inequities many low-income pregnant and parenting youth face. These inequities include limited access to comprehensive sexual health education, educational and career opportunities, as well as support services, such as childcare, healthcare, housing assistance and job training.

In 2013, a little over 2% of young women between the ages of 15-19 gave birth in California. [1] While the overall adolescent birth rate in California has seen a 59% decrease since 1991[2], under-served areas like the Central Valley, Los Angeles County and the Imperial Valley are still experiencing higher rates than other regions in the state.[3] At the same time, young families face stigma that has fueled a punitive framework that blames and shames young parents, which takes a toll on the health and well-being of young families. The California Young Parents Day Resolution will serve as a framework to inform future policy decisions that affect the well-being of young parents.

The passage of the ACR-201 is part of the continuing work of CLRJ's Justice for Young Families (J4YF) Initiative, a long-term initiative that champions the rights of pregnant and parenting youth. This includes their decisions on whether or not to become parents as well as their right to parent the children they have within a supportive environment. Previous legislative victories under the J4YF portfolio have included the 2015 passage of AB 302 (C. Garcia) & AB 329 (Weber), both policies that provide tangible supports and educational tools for pregnant and parenting youth.

By having August 25th be the designated Day of Recognition for Pregnant and Parenting Youth, California, alongside New Mexico, can now help shift the negative perceptions and treatment of young parents. Uplifting the contributions and needs of young parents through this resolution

passage is the beginning of a long-term effort that values their future—when young parents do well economically, educationally, and socially, their children do better and so do all of our communities.

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CLRJ is the only Latina led statewide reproductive justice organization in California building Latinas' power and cultivating leadership through community education, policy advocacy, and community informed research. We advance reproductive rights through an intersectional social justice and human rights framework that is committed to honoring the experiences of the more than 7 million Latinas in California, as we to uphold our dignity, our bodies, sexuality, and families.

Learn more about California Latinas for Reproductive Justice at [www.californialatinas.org](http://www.californialatinas.org)

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[1] "Adolescent Births in California: 2000-2013." California Department of Public Health, Center for Family Health Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Division Epidemiology, Assessment, and Program Development Branch, June 2015.

[2] Jerman, Constantine & Nevarez (2013). No Time for Complacency: Teen Births in California, Spring 2013 Update, Public Health Institute.

[3] "Adolescent Births in California: 2000-2013." California Department of Public Health, Center for Family Health Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Division Epidemiology, Assessment, and Program Development Branch, June 2015.