



September 3, 2013

The Center for Family Life Education
196 Speedwell Avenue
Morristown, NJ 07960

Dear Friends:

Congratulations on convening the National Sex Ed Conference – the 28th annual conference hosted by the Center for Family Life Education (CFLE). We value the CFLE as a partner in addressing teen and unplanned pregnancy through its role in developing sex education teaching manuals, including your newest resource, *Positive Images: Teaching about Contraception and Sexual Health* and making lesson plans available on the CFLE's Sex Ed Network.

As you well know, sex ed will always be a group effort, which is why the work of the CFLE and other leaders in sexuality education is so critical in helping ensure that teenagers, young adults, and people of all ages have access to top flight information about sexuality and relationships, as well as birth control and much else. I am sure I speak for literally thousands of people nationwide in expressing thanks to you for your efforts in this field.

As recent National Campaign data show, teen childbearing in the United States cost taxpayers **\$10.9 billion** in 2008 alone. State taxpayer costs in that same year ranged from a low of \$16 million in North Dakota to \$245 million in New Jersey to a whopping \$1.2 billion in Texas. Of course, these public sector costs would have been far higher had it not been for the one-third decline in the U.S. teen birth rate between 1991 and 2008. According to our new analysis, the estimated national savings to taxpayers in 2008 alone due to the substantial decline in the teen birth rate was \$8.4 billion.

All of us, collectively, should feel great pride in the progress we've made as well as renewed determination to keep at our important work. Clearly, there is no reason to be complacent. The fight goes on, our work continues, and the support of groups like the CFLE remains critical to future progress.

Sincerely,

Sarah S. Brown
CEO

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