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SARAH S. BROWN

Sarah Brown is currently Director of The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, a private and independent initiative organized in 1996 to stimulate and support actions nationwide to reduce adolescent pregnancy. Before taking this assignment, she was a senior study director at the Institute of Medicine (a component of the National Academy of Sciences) where she completed a major study on unintended pregnancy, resulting in the report, "The Best Intentions: Unintended Pregnancy and the Well-Being of Children and Families." Previously, she directed projects within the Institute on numerous topics related to maternal and child health, including health care reform, substance abuse among pregnant women, access to prenatal care, and preventing low birthweight as a means of reducing infant mortality.

She serves on the boards of many other organizations including the Alan Guttmacher Institute and last spring completed a four-year term as the Public Member of the Executive Board of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. She serves on the District of Columbia's Mayor's Committee on Reducing Teenage Pregnancies and Out-of-Wedlock Births. She is a member of the Early Life and Adolescent Health Policy Working Group of Harvard University and also sits on the advisory councils of *Teen People* Magazine, the Division of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention at the Institute of Medicine, the Department of Maternal and Child Health at Johns Hopkins University, the National Center for Education in Maternal and Child Health at Georgetown University and of the Maternal and Child Health Advisory Council of the March of Dimes. For over ten years, Brown also co-chaired the District of Columbia's Mayor's Advisory Board on Maternal and Infant Health, which guided a wide variety of community-based initiatives to reduce infant mortality in the District, including the Healthy Start project funded by the federal government. She has published numerous scholarly and popular articles on a wide variety of topics in maternal and child health and in reproductive health, and is also a frequent public speaker and media contact on these issues.

She holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from Stanford University and the University of North Carolina, and has been elected to Delta Omega, the public health honorary society. In 1993, she was awarded the John MacQueen award for excellence in maternal and child health, sponsored by the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs. In 1995, she received the Harriet Hylton Barr Distinguished Service Award, offered by the School of Public Health Alumni Association, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and in 1998 was awarded the Martha May Elliot Award of the American Public Health Association for unusual achievement in the field of maternal and child health. In November, 1999, she will receive an award from the National Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy, Parenting and Prevention.

She is married to attorney Winthrop Brown and lives in Washington, D.C. along with their three daughters, ages 13, 17 and 20.

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May 11, 2000

Hillary Rodham Clinton
First Lady of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

Last week's conference on raising teenagers was absolutely terrific and I write today simply to thank you for your leadership, your eloquence and your extraordinary ability to weave together so many disparate threads into a single tapestry of great power. Sitting in the East Room throughout the day was a remarkable experience for us all. In one room, you assembled so many key leaders, thinkers and advocates who have worked together in innumerable capacities over many years on this critical life stage. That special day was, I think, the first time we had ever all been together. Can it really be true that there had never been any similar conference on teenagers at the White House?

Work at the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy is going extremely well and we are all very encouraged by the continued drop in rates of both teen pregnancy and birth. Countless teenagers and their families owe you and the President a profound debt of gratitude for shining a spot light on this issue and helping us all to move forward in finding solutions. Your leadership has really made all the difference.

Just in time for both Mother's Day and Father's Day, the Campaign has produced three postcards (enclosed) that echo the theme of the White House conference. We are distributing these in mass quantities to states and communities and hope they help to send the message that "teens need their parents as much as toddlers do." I thought you'd enjoy seeing them.

With deep admiration and appreciation,

Sincerely,



Enclosures (3)

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Memorandum:

4/28/00 – 3:15 pm

To: Heather Howard
From: Sarah Brown 
Re: Outline of remarks

My four minutes will cover the following points:

1. Ample research has shown that parents are potent influences on the behavior of teenaged children, even though parents often don't think so. That is, their influence extends well beyond the early years and well into adolescence.
2. Even in the most sensitive area of sex, teenagers say that they would like more guidance from their parents about the challenges they face and about ways to manage their lives.
3. Nonetheless, many teens report that their parents often fail to talk to them about the tough issues they are facing – that at best many often give only lectures, but that real communications is often scant.
4. Deeply committed to engaging parents in solutions, the National Campaign developed a set of ten tips for parents – firmly anchored in research and best practices – to reduce teen pregnancy among their children. It's been very well-received and, among other things, caused us to be curious about what *other* research-based groups have offered to parents in the way of advice. The remarkable lesson learned in comparing "tips for parents" generated by a wide variety of groups who, like us, focus on single problems (drug use, violence, smoking and other problems), is that *the advice is much the same*.
5. One of the materials in the packet assembled for this conference is a compilation of these tips from six groups (name them).
6. What emerges from this summary of advice is that we *do* know how parents can help, and we *do* know what steps they can take in the every day chaos of family life to raise healthy and resourceful young adults. We need to communicate these simple ideas clearly, forcefully and widely.