



# EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT



## EXECUTIVE ORDER #5

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin has a proud tradition and deep commitment to foster a community in which gender is no longer the basis of either privilege or denial of opportunity; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin women represent a majority of the population, yet in terms of economic and social status, they are still a minority; and

WHEREAS, there are increasing numbers of women heading families of which they are the main source of income; and

WHEREAS, a very high percentage of adults who fall within the federal definition of poverty are now women; and

WHEREAS, older women, whose numbers are rapidly increasing, and minority women are even more likely to live in poverty; and

WHEREAS, increasing numbers of displaced homemakers are being thrust into the paid labor force with limited training and resources; and

WHEREAS, more than one-half of Wisconsin women are part of the paid labor force and most of those who do work for pay must do so because of absolute economic necessity; and

WHEREAS, women who do work for pay are clustered in under-valued, under-paid jobs; and

WHEREAS, every effort should be made to minimize the poverty of women and their families which will tend to reduce human suffering, eliminate inequalities in our society and benefit the Wisconsin tax base and economy; and

WHEREAS, this administration is absolutely committed to improving women's economic and social status;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ANTHONY S. EARL, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of this state, do hereby order and direct:

1. That there is created pursuant to s. 14.019 of the Wisconsin Statutes, a non-statutory committee which shall be known as the Wisconsin Women's Council.
2. The Wisconsin Women's Council shall:
  - a. identify the barriers that prevent Wisconsin women from participating fully and equally in all aspects of state life;

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- b. review, monitor and advise all branches of state government regarding current and emerging state policies, procedures, practices, laws and administrative rules for their impact on women;
  - c. work closely with state government, the University of Wisconsin, the Vocational, Technical and Adult Education System, the private sector and the broad range of women and women's groups to develop long-term solutions to women's economic and social inequality in Wisconsin;
  - d. make recommendations to the public and private sector designed to further women's economic and social equality and improve Wisconsin's tax base and economy;
  - e. propose legislation as a means of ensuring women's economic and social equality;
  - f. conduct hearings on issues related to improving women's economic and social status;
  - g. disseminate information on the status of Wisconsin women.
3. That the Wisconsin Women's Council shall be composed of eleven members: one member shall be from the Governor's staff and the other ten members shall represent the diversity of the general population of the state and be knowledgeable about the broad range of women's issues. The Governor shall designate the chair from among the members of the Council.
  4. That all state agencies shall give full cooperation and assistance to the Wisconsin Women's Council and to that end, all agencies shall, when requested by the Council:
    - a. provide information on program policies, procedures, practices and services affecting women;
    - b. present recommendations to the Council;
    - c. attend meetings and provide such staff assistance as may be needed by the Council;

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- d. transmit concerns of the Council to their agencies.
5. That the Department of Administration shall provide such administrative support as may be needed by the Council.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this first day of February in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred eighty-three.

ANTHONY S. EARL

By the Governor:

DOUGLAS IA FOLLETTE  
Secretary of State