

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER #115

Relating to Creating the Governor's Commission on
Families and Children

WHEREAS, the family gives us a model of human relationships after which all other social institutions are fashioned, and

WHEREAS, the family is the foundation that nurtures children by teaching them values, morals, goals, personal worth and self-esteem, and

WHEREAS, the strength and integrity of the family are vital to our well-being as a state, and

WHEREAS, today, Wisconsin like the rest of the country faces problems that are consequences of the breakdown of the family, such as alcohol and other drug abuse, child abuse and neglect, teenage pregnancy and domestic abuse, and

WHEREAS, the rising number of dysfunctional families in Wisconsin costs our state millions of dollars each year in social programs and leads to the loss of human growth and potential, and

WHEREAS, it is essential that we invest in the future by valuing the traditions of families in our society and by focusing on the prevention of the family breakdown, and

WHEREAS, we know that quality programs for families and children which are comprehensive, community-based, and prevention-oriented will strengthen our society by providing our families with the skills they need to survive, and

WHEREAS, it is important that we look at existing exemplary programs such as Head Start, New Concepts, and Rosalie Manor as examples of comprehensive, community-based "model" programs for us to emulate, and

WHEREAS, it is essential that all involved parties, including but not limited to parents, children, teachers, business leaders, clergy and public officials, pool their human and financial resources and coordinate their efforts to provide support to further strengthen and empower the family, and

WHEREAS, the future of our state and nation depend on the strength of the family, and

WHEREAS, it is now time for us to renew our belief and support of the family,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TOMMY G. THOMPSON, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of this State, and specifically by Wisconsin Statute section 14.019, do hereby repeal Executive Order #103 (dated August 1, 1990) and:

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3. Provide that staff services to the Commission shall be provided by the agencies represented on the Commission. The Department of Administration shall serve as the fiscal agent for the Commission.

4. Direct that the Commission assess the status, scope and effectiveness of all existing programs related to families and children at the state level, and review and evaluate present state policies in order to define a blueprint for the future to direct the development of state programs affecting families and children in the following manner:

a. Define methods by which public policy impacts on families and establish criteria to assess public policy and articulate the results of the commission's findings.

b. Review existing and proposed legislation, including budget items, according to the established criteria and make recommendations.

c. Provide leadership in the development of new programs for families and children and in the coordination of existing family and children's services among state programs; identify gaps and overlaps in existing state services for families and children; and seek elimination of unnecessary administrative costs.

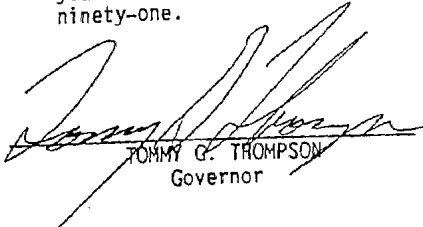
d. Strengthen the role of parents by seeking the development of state programs that allow for and encourage parental involvement in decisions about state programs affecting their children such as child care and early childhood education.

e. Devise a plan to develop and assist local coordinating councils on families and children which can assist in the effective local delivery of services for families and children, and encourage the involvement of interested parties in local coordinating councils.

f. Review the recommendations of any studies or reports relating to family and children's issues and encourage the implementation of those recommendations the Commission believes appropriate.

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 Nineteenth day of March in the year one thousand nine hundred and ninety-one.




TOMMY G. THOMPSON
Governor