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**State of Montana
Office of the Governor**

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OF MONTANA



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Executive Order No. 15-96

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EXECUTIVE ORDER CREATING
THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON FAMILIES

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WHEREAS, strong and healthy families are the foundation of a healthy society; and

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WHEREAS, families in their wondrous diversity provide the essential front line of education in passing on values, ethics, ideals and socially acceptable behaviors to the citizens of tomorrow; and

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WHEREAS, the modern-day family is experiencing a variety of pressures--social, cultural and economic--that can threaten its viability; and

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WHEREAS, malfunctioning families affect all of us through the increased costs of public medical care and the justice and penal systems, and increased emotional and financial costs when new victims are created; and

WHEREAS, the roots of youth violence can be traced in large part to the breakdown of family units; and the education system and all of its members and constituencies are adversely affected by the disruptive and sometimes violent behavior of students,

1 many of whom come from malfunctioning families; and

2 WHEREAS, single-parent families have a significantly higher
3 rate of poverty than two-parent families and children from
4 single-parent families are more likely to become school
5 dropouts, juvenile delinquents, teen parents, and recipients of
6 public assistance; and

7 WHEREAS, the percentage of children living in single-parent
8 families more than doubled in one generation, from 12 percent in
9 1970 to 27 percent in 1993; and

10 WHEREAS, problems in families such as domestic violence,
11 abandonment, child abuse, and neglect tend to be perpetuated
12 from generation to generation; and

13 WHEREAS, it is the stated statutory responsibility (Family
14 Policy Act) that government constantly examine the impact of all
15 its actions on the health of the family; and

16 WHEREAS, with appropriate intervention and support,
17 troubled families can often be restored to their essential
18 nurturing role in the upbringing of Montana's children, who are
19 the classmates, neighbors, co-workers, and leaders of tomorrow;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, the majority of Montana's families function well
22 and especially deserve the support, positive reinforcement and
23 gratitude of their State Government, society at large, and their
24 peers; and

25 WHEREAS, government alone clearly cannot and should not try
26 to solve all of the current problems of troubled families; and

1 D. acting as a catalyst for the stimulation of discussion
2 and action by other institutions such as schools and local
3 governments to design and shape their activities and
4 policies to aid the growth and maintenance of healthy
5 families;

6 E. facilitating the exchange among Montanans of
7 successful family strategies; and

8 F. performing such other activities as may be appropriate
9 to move Montana toward the goal of becoming forever family-
10 friendly.

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12 II. COMPOSITION:

13 The Council shall be composed of not more than 17 members
14 who shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The names and
15 addresses of members are submitted by separate letter to the
16 Secretary of State and the Department of Public Health and Human
17 Services.

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19 III. ADMINISTERING AGENCY:

20 The Department of Public Health and Human Services is
21 designated as the organizational unit responsible for the
22 administration and management of the Council.

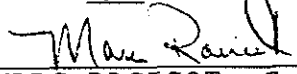
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24 IV. DURATION:

25 This Council shall remain in existence for two years from
26 the effective date of this Order unless extended or terminated


1 by subsequent Executive Order.

2 This Order is effective immediately.

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5 GIVEN under my hand and the GREAT
6 SEAL of the State of Montana,
7 this 25th day of June, 1996.

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9 _____
10 MARC RACICOT, Governor

11 ATTEST:

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14 MIKE COONEY, Secretary of State