WHEREAS, it is estimated that over fifty percent of all deaths in Nebraska between ages one and sixty-five are linked to individual lifestyle factors; and

WHEREAS, nine of the ten leading causes of premature death in Nebraska can be linked to one or more of six behaviors: cigarette smoking, alcohol misuse, lack of exercise, failure to wear safety belts, overeating, and lack of control of hypertension; and

WHEREAS, organized health promotion efforts, aimed at educating people about maintaining health and motivating people to take healthy actions provide promise for the greatest long-term impact on healthy behaviors; and

WHEREAS, increased efforts which emphasize personal choice health behavior education to reduce the risk of premature death and disability can best be accomplished through the building and strengthening of partnerships among the public, private and voluntary sectors of our society;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KAY A. ORR, Governor of the State of Nebraska, do hereby establish the Governor's Health Promotion and Physical Fitness Council, for the purposes of:

I. Improving and expanding the health information network by fostering cooperation and coordination between state agencies, educational institutions and organizations, providers of health care, other community organizations involved with health promotion, and private citizens;

II. Reviewing current health promotion activities in Nebraska and compiling available data concerning the occurrence of preventable mortality, morbidity and health risk factors;

III. Providing leadership and a consistent, organized approach to health promotion so as to enhance the probability that positive health practices will become a societal norm; and

IV. Publicly recognizing outstanding public, private and voluntary contributions in the area of health promotion.

THE COUNCIL shall consist of 15 persons including the Director of the State Department of Health, and a representative of the departments of Personnel and Education appointed by the Governor. The remaining twelve members shall be appointed by the Governor for specified three year terms. The initial appointments shall be on staggered terms; four one-year terms, four two-year terms and four
three-year terms. The appointments may be renewed but no one, excluding the three named agency members, shall serve more than two consecutive complete three-year terms. The Governor shall select the chairperson. A vice chairperson, a secretary and a treasurer shall be elected from within the council. Further, the council shall engage in, but not be limited to, the following activities:

1. Hold meetings at least once each quarter.

2. Strengthen or establish contacts with public, private and voluntary organizations and work cooperatively to enhance communication, and to reduce unnecessary duplication in the area of health promotion.

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska to be affixed this day of December, 1989.

KAY A. ORR
Governor

Attest:

ALLEN J. BEERMAN
Secretary of State