WHEREAS, community service is a vital component in meeting the needs of Nebraska's communities;

WHEREAS, Nebraska's citizens can unite communities and, working together for the betterment of State, truly make us "One Nebraska";

WHEREAS, community service challenges people of all ages and all walks of life to strengthen our communities by "getting things done," thereby making the good life better.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, E. Benjamin Nelson, Governor of the State of Nebraska, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and statutes of the State of Nebraska, do hereby order the creation of the Nebraska Commission for National and Community Service to engage the idealism and energy of Nebraskans to meet the most critical needs of our communities.

The Commission will consist of not more than 25 voting members and not more than 10 ex-officio, non-voting members. Commission membership will include:

* A representative of a community-based agency or organization in the State;
* The head of the Nebraska Department of Education or his/her designee;
* A representative of local governments in the State;
* A representative of local labor organizations in the State;
* A representative of Business;
* A representative of a national service program;
* A representative of persons with disabilities;
* An individual between the ages of 16 and 25 who is a participant or supervisor of a service program for youth, or of a campus-based or national service program;
* An individual with expertise in the educational, training, and development needs of youth, particularly disadvantaged youth.
An individual with experience in promoting the involvement of adults (as defined in the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 4950 et seq.) in service and volunteerism.

In choosing additional members of the Commission, representatives of the following will be given priority in the selection process but are not mandated membership positions:

- Educators, including representatives from institutions of higher education and local education agencies;
- Experts in the delivery of human, environmental, educational or public safety services to communities and persons;
- Representatives of Indian tribes;
- Out of school or at-risk youth; and
- Others as deemed appropriate.

In membership selection, a balance with respect to race, gender, age, ethnicity and disability characteristics shall be a priority. Not more than 50% plus one of the voting members may be from the same political party. The number of voting members of the Commission who are officers or employees of the State may not exceed 25% (reduced to the nearest whole number) of the total voting membership.

The Governor will appoint Commission members in April of each year for a term of three years or until a successor is appointed, except the initial appointments which shall be staggered with one-third of the members appointed to one-year terms, one-third of the members appointed to two-year terms, and one-third of the members appointed to three-year terms. As vacancies occur, new members shall be appointed to serve for the remainder of the term for which the predecessor was appointed.

The voting members of the Commission shall select one of the voting members to serve as chairperson of the Commission.

Commission members will be eligible for reimbursement of necessary and allowable expenses as provided under State law for members of boards and commissions. When the law requires a state agency or department to have a representative on the Commission, that state agency or department will accept responsibility for the expenses incurred as a result of attendance at Commission meetings and activities.

The Commission shall have the following responsibilities:

1. To develop a state comprehensive national and community service plan.
2. To promote national service programs and community service in Nebraska.
3. To coordinate community service activities and programs in Nebraska.
4. To identify and solicit community service programs and projects in Nebraska and select which applications, from those submitted to the Commission, will be recommended to the Corporation for National and Community Service for funding.
5. To administer AmeriCorps national and community service grants in Nebraska, which shall include
assistance with the provision of health care and child care benefits for AmeriCorps participants.

6. To provide training, technical assistance and other assistance as needed to AmeriCorps program grantees and other community service programs upon request.

7. To assist the Nebraska Department of Education with preparation of their AmeriCorps application.

The Commission will report to the Governor. Reporting responsibilities include identifying areas of success, documenting areas of need, and recommending policy initiatives or legislation where needed.

This order is effective immediately.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska to be affixed this 26th day of July, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and ninety-four.

Allen J. Beermann
Secretary of State