WHEREAS, the incidence of homelessness and near-homelessness is a persistent and on-going issue resisting easy solutions in the State of Nebraska.

WHEREAS, coordination and collaboration among public, non-profit, and private entities can lead to a more effective use of resources directed to address issues of homelessness.

WHEREAS, a comprehensive statewide strategy designed to reduce the incidence of homelessness and to improve the quality of housing supportive services will significantly improve the lives of many Nebraskans faced with homelessness.

WHEREAS, ongoing and specific policy and program recommendations will facilitate the development and implementation of such a strategy.

NOW, THEREFORE, T. E. Benjamin Nelson, Governor of the State of Nebraska, by virtue of the authority vested in the Governor by the Constitution and statutes of the State of Nebraska, hereby order the following:

1. The State Department of Social Services will establish the Nebraska Interagency Council on the Homeless (hereinafter "Council"), which will be composed of approximately 30 members appointed by the Governor. The Council will be composed of one representative from each of the following:

   Nebraska Crime Commission
   Nebraska Department of Agriculture
   Nebraska Department of Corrections
   Nebraska Department of Economic Development
   Nebraska Department of Education
   Nebraska Department of Health
   Nebraska Department of Labor
   Nebraska Department of Public Institutions
   Nebraska Department of Social Services
   Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs

   In addition, the Council will be composed of representatives from:

   Homeless shelter providers
   Homeless assistance service providers
   Federal, regional, and local agencies
   Non-profit community-based organizations
   Organizations advocating on behalf of homeless and near-homeless persons
   Business and industry
   Other interested persons

   A designated staff member from the Nebraska Department of Social Services will serve as the official liaison.
2. The Nebraska Department of Social Services will provide administrative and technical support to the Council. The Nebraska Department of Economic Development and other state agencies will provide additional support to the Council as requested by the Nebraska Department of Social Services.

3. The Council is vested with the following charges:

1) To focus attention on, and increase awareness of, the needs of homeless families and persons in Nebraska.

2) To encourage continuity, coordination and cooperation at the state level among state agencies and service providers that deliver services to the homeless persons and families.

3) To coordinate the development of a statewide comprehensive plan that: establishes a method of periodically counting the number and types of homeless and near-homeless persons in the state; identifies conditions contributing to homelessness; provides an inventory of agencies and providers of services to homeless persons; and, establishes common terms and definitions for the purposes of data-gathering and program descriptions.

4) To serve as an advisory body to the Governor on issues of homelessness.

4. The Nebraska Department of Administrative Services will create and administer the Council Fund on behalf of the Council. Appropriations from the fund will be made at the discretion of, and from, the Director of the Nebraska Department of Social Services.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska to be affixed this 31st day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and ninety-four.

Attest:

Allen J. Beermann
Secretary of State