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NOV 16 1999

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STATE *of* NEBRASKA  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
LINCOLN

**EXECUTIVE ORDER**

**No. 99-03**

**Blue Ribbon Panel to Investigate Infant Mortality**

WHEREAS, the health of our children is a priority of this administration; and

WHEREAS, no effort should be spared to understand and solve the problems that result in an early death for Nebraska's infants; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska's infant mortality rate (death rate among children under one year) is not improving at the pace and in the manner that we would like, and has been above the national average for the last four out of six years; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska's neonatal infant mortality rate (death rate among infants 28 days and under) has been rising for the past six years; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska's infant mortality rate is an important indicator of our overall health status as a state; and

WHEREAS, an examination of the causes of infant mortality will lead to not only a lower infant death rate, but also better outcomes in terms of quality of life for all infants;

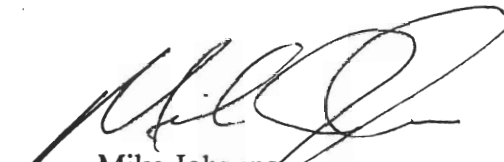
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mike Johanns, Governor of the State Of Nebraska, do hereby issue the following Executive Order:

1. A Blue Ribbon Panel is hereby created to investigate Nebraska's unsatisfactory infant mortality rate;
2. The Panel will focus its efforts on determining the correctable and preventable causes of Nebraska's infant mortality, with a special focus on our rising neonatal deaths,

examining factors including, but not limited to, barriers to early and sustained access to prenatal care, lifestyle choices of women of child-bearing age, racial and ethnic disparities, unintended pregnancies, birth defects, and quality of care;


3. The Panel will propose strategies to reduce the number of deaths among infants in Nebraska, and to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in the infant mortality rate;
4. The chairperson of this Panel will be the State of Nebraska's Chief Medical Officer in the Nebraska Health and Human Services System;

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska to be affixed this 27th day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and ninety nine.



Mike Johanns  
Governor of Nebraska

Attest:



Scott Moore  
Secretary of State

